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AN
IMPARTIAL
JOURNAL
OF A
DETACHMENT
FROM THE
BRIGADE OF FOOT GUARDS,

COMMENCING
25th FEBRUARY, 1793,
AND ENDING
9th MAY, 1795.

BY ROBERT BROWN,
CORPORAL IN THE COLDSTREAM GUARDS.

ILLUSTRATED WITH A MAP OF THE SEAT OF WAR.

LONDON:
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to

M A J O R - G E N E R A L

L A K E.

SIR,

THE very high honor that you have conferred by permitting me to dedicate the following work to a Gentleman and a General of your great and well-known abilities, will always command my most grateful acknowledgements, as under such a protector the numerous imperfections therein contained will be the more readily excused.

To you, Sir, as our first Commander under his Royal Highness the Duke of York, we have been long taught to pay the most cheerful obedience; but we can with the greatest propriety and justice say more, namely, that such obedience was not paid to you merely as a General, and our Commander, but as our FATHER; not only to one whose authority extended over our persons, but to one who

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DEDICATION.

who possessed our warmest affections ; to one whose presence never failed to infuse with an irresistible power, a spirit of cheerfulness and ardour into every heart : every hardship was despised, while we beheld you sharing it with us ; and no danger, in whatever shape it might appear, was dreaded while you were our leader.

The joyful acclamations with which you were received after a short absence at Courtray ; and the pleasure and satisfaction which evinced itself publicly, on every similar occasion, throughout the brigade, may prevent the smallest degree of adulation from being imputed to so humble an individual as,

SIR,

With the greatest Respect,

Your most obliged,

Most obedient,

And most devoted humble Servant,

ROBERT BROWN.

Windsor,

September, 1795.

P R E F A C E.

THE following pages being originally written for my own private amusement, were never intended to meet the public eye, until some time after the brigade returned to England, when, at the instance of a number of my friends, I was induced, at length, to submit them to the press.

As there is a kind of secret pleasure in contemplating past scenes of danger and distress, when the mind is at rest and quiet, this small tract may be acceptable to many of those who shared in the troubles therein described; as it will bring to

their remembrance a number of incidents which they had probably forgot. To others, it may serve to correct the wide misrepresentations that have been industriously circulated, either through ignorance or prejudice; for however some may boast of the veracity of their information, yet those who were present in the scenes of action are the best able to judge of the correctness of such a performance.

I have taken notice, as often as opportunity offered, of every other regiment or corps in the British army who were engaged in any particular action; at the same time many circumstances may have occurred among them worthy of remark, which, on account of their distance and my private situation, I could not possibly come at the knowledge of. The names of the several posts we occupied, and the

time of taking or leaving them, may be depended upon.

The reader is not to expect to find here the eloquent productions of learning, nor the glowing effusions of fancy ; but a plain, simple narrative of facts, which were generally minuted down on the evening of the day on which they took place, or the first opportunity afterwards.

All party influence is totally excluded. No circumstance whatever is concealed to favour the one, nor aggravated to please the other ; but are, according to the information collected on the spot, related precisely as they took place.

Windsor,
Sept. 19, 1795:

ed your much gratified to get this
and will do so quick as can be done. I am
now in London to attend our annual
meeting and expect to remain here until
the 20th inst. I hope to visit you at some
time during my stay here. I remain with best
regards & affections to your wife & family
I remain with best regards & affections to your wife &
children & all your family. I remain with best
regards & affections to your wife & family
I remain with best regards & affections to your wife &
children & all your family. I remain with best
regards & affections to your wife & family
I remain with best regards & affections to your wife &

MARY
MAY 1812

AN IMPARTIAL

JOURNAL,

&c.

ABOUT this time, the French army
under the command of General Dumou-
rier, spreading their baneful influence,
as well as their arms, over all West Flan-
ders, into which they found very easy ad-
mission, proceeded with rapid strides to-
wards Holland, the invasion of which
Dumourier had openly avowed.

His Majesty being bound by a defen-
sive treaty of alliance, was under the ne-
cessity of sending a number of troops to

1793
Feb.

Feb. assist the Dutch against the common enemy, whose principles and secret combinations, as well as outward profession, militated against every government in Europe.

20th. Orders were issued that the three first battalions of foot guards should hold themselves in readiness to embark for foreign service. The companies were by the first augmentation to consist of four serjeants, four corporals, two drummers, and seventy-one privates.

21st. Nothing extra.

22d. Nothing extra.

23d. It not being found convenient to complete the companies to the first establishment, it was ordered that the number of privates should be fifty-six.

24th. His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester ordered that the brigade commanded for foreign service, should be ready to march from the Parade in St. James's Park, the next morning at six o'clock, to Greenwich, in order to embark on board the transports provided for that purpose.

His

His Majesty having appointed his Royal Highness the Duke of York commander in chief of the British forces for foreign service, Major-General Lake was appointed to command the brigade of guards.

The brigade paraded in the Park, and after being reviewed by his Majesty, marched to Greenwich, and embarked from the Hospital stairs. His Majesty was present at the embarkation.

This detachment consisted now of four battalions, the grenadier companies, viz. two from the 1st regiment, and one from each of the others, being formed into a separate battalion, under the command of Colonel Leigh of the 3d regiment.

Weighed anchor and dropped down the river to the Nore.

Remained at anchor.

Weighed anchor and put to sea, under the convoy of two frigates, viz. the Lizard, Captain Williams, and the Racehorse, Captain ——.

March.

1st.

Early in the morning a strong gale of wind came on, and the first land we discovered was a point a little to the north of Helvoetsluys; about 9 o'clock a Dutch pilot came on board, and advised our captain to stand a little to the southward; which advice he following, instead of anchoring in a safe and commodious place, run the ship upon a lee shore, the wind blowing very strong upon the land.

2d.

Nothing extra.

3d.

Nothing extra.

4th.

Having got all things in readiness, the 3d regiment disembarked about noon, at Helvoetsluys, where they remained some time, and at Brill; the rest of the brigade going on board of scouts, in order to proceed by water to Dort.

5th.

Proceeded up the river Maese; this country is almost all covered with water, and banks are raised for foot passengers along the sides of the river and canals.

6th.

Arrived at Dort, which is an exceeding beautiful town; it is about three miles in circumference, but of no great strength, there

there being no works to defend it. Ca- March.
nals are cut all through the town, on which the shipping go to any part of it. The streets are regular and kept remarkably clean, as well as the outside of their houses, which they are continually washing.

But if we were struck with the neat appearance and cleanliness of the streets, and outside of the houses, we were much more so upon seeing the inside, where every article of furniture, whether for use or ornament, is kept in a state of cleanliness and regularity far exceeding any thing we have been accustomed to see in England. The country round the town is very pleasant, being covered with gentlemen's seats and delightful gardens, watered by small rivulets cut from the rivers and canals.

Two fine yachts were moored here, on board of which the Duke of York and the Prince of Orange slept.

Three companies of the 3d regiment after disembarking marched to Brill, and

March. four companies to Helvoet, where they remained till the 25th, when they were relieved by the 14th foot, and sat off to join the brigade.

Brill is a very beautiful and strong fortress, surrounded with strong ramparts and a deep wet ditch ; there are upwards of 100 pieces of ordnance mounted upon the several batteries. Canals are cut from the river, which spread themselves in branches through different parts of the town.

27th. In consequence of an order of his Royal Highness, the commander in chief, the brigade commenced drawing bread in lieu of bread money ; one pound and a half each man per day. Provisions of every kind are remarkably cheap here, and the inhabitants shew a great deal of kindness and respect for our army in general.

30th. A light company was formed from the brigade, and put under the command of Lieut. Col. Perryn, but attached to the grenadier battalion, which was now called
the

the flank battalion, and consisted of five companies. April.

The brigade of guards, with a detachment of artillery, received orders to hold themselves in readiness to embark, with all their baggage, &c. on Monday morning next at day-break.

His Royal Highness was pleased to make a present of six pounds of beef for each man, being provision for four days.

The brigade, except four companies of the 3d regiment, embarked for Bergen-op-Zoom, which four companies followed five days after. 1st.

In sailing for Bergen-op-Zoom we passed close under Williamstadt, which place the enemy had laid siege to, but retreated some time before.

Bergen-op-Zoom is thought to be as strong a fortification as any in Europe; besides the great strength of its works, and the vast command it has of the water, being the principal quay of the river Scheldt, it is remarkable for its strong and extensive bomb-proofs, which are

April. said to be capable of containing 100,000 men. The town itself is but inconsiderable, though the works extend about three miles in circumference; the garrison consisted of Dutch troops, the British were quartered in the town.

9th. About two o'clock in the morning the brigade received orders to embark, and proceed with all possible expedition to Antwerp; the artillery to proceed by land. Accordingly, the men and baggage being embarked, we set sail up the river, and about two o'clock, P. M. cast anchor in sight of Antwerp.

A considerable fleet of Dutch and English men of war, with frigates, gun-boats, &c. lay in the river; and as we sailed through them they saluted his Royal Highness, as also some batteries on the river side.

10th. About two o'clock P. M. we landed on the west side of the river, Antwerp being on the east side; and, after receiving two days biscuit, marched about three o'clock, and passed the 53d and

37th regiments in cantonments ; about April six o'clock arrived at Bovern, where we were quartered forty or fifty in a house.

The face of this country appears very different from Holland ; instead of vast sheets of water and marshy ground, we beheld a country covered with universal verdure, in woods and fields beautifully variegated.

Halted.

12th.

Marched at seven o'clock in the morning ; our column consisted of the brigade of guards, and that of the line, with the artillery ; and arrived at Lokeron, a considerable town on the river Durme, ten miles from Ghent. This day we passed through St. Nicholas, on the main road from Antwerp to Ghent, containing a great number of schools for youth of both sexes ; two roads cross each other in the center of the town, and on each road, before you approach the center a considerable way, the houses, which are very elegant, divide, and form a vast circle, which

13th.

April. which has a very magnificent appearance.

14th. Marched at seven o'clock, and arrived at Ghent at one P. M.

This day our attention was engaged by a great number of small buildings, differing very much both in size and elegance, erected at almost every cross-road, or place particularly conspicuous; wherein is set up either a crucifix, or an image of the Virgin with her Son in her arms, but chiefly the latter; at which places all solitary passengers pay their devotions, and at some is an iron box for the reception of their charity.

Ghent is a large town, upwards of eight miles in circumference, situated on the river Scheldt; and also the Lys, which latter loses itself in a number of canals, branching out to the north and west.

There are some remains of a wall and ditch in some places here, and also of a citadel; but it never was of any great strength, and is now in a state of total decay:

decay : some of the churches are very large, and contain some paintings of considerable reputation.

The barracks of St. Peter's are the most commodious we have yet seen, forming an ample square, with piazzas and a gallery all round ; the rooms above and below being fitted up for the accommodation of eight men each, the whole being able to contain about 1600 men.

Our troops were quartered in the town, and the people behaved very kind to us.

Halted.

This morning the army, having got on board different scouts, proceeded up the canal to Bruges. It snowed very much during our passage, which, crowded as we were, made it very disagreeable.

Landed at Bruges about seven o'clock in the morning. This is a fine little town, and has a brisk trade by means of its vicinity to Ostend. Provisions of every kind very reasonable. Some small remains of a fortification appear round

the

15th.

16th.

17th.

April. the town, but no care is taken of it, nor
any guns mounted.

18th. Halted.

19th. Marched at one in the morning for
Thielt, at which place we arrived about
ten in the evening; quartered in the
town.

The face of this country is very ple-
asant, abounding with fir trees.

20th. Marched at ten o'clock in the morning,
and about five o'clock P. M. arrived at
Courtray, distance about sixteen miles;
country very pleasant and fruitful.

Courtray is a fine populous town, situ-
ated on the river Lys; a kind of a mud
wall and wet ditch, of no consequence,
is all the defence it has: the enemy eva-
cuated this town just before we entered,
as they did most of the places we lately
passed. The country here is more open
and free from wood, though the soil is
very rich and produces fine crops. There
is no remarkable building in this town;
the market-place is confused and irregu-
lar, a building of several houses standing

in

in the middle of it. This town forms the northern point of a triangle with Tournay and Lisle. April.

Marched at seven o'clock A. M. and about four P. M. arrived at Tournay. 23d.

Tournay is a large populous town, defended by an ancient stone wall and a ditch; the citadel is well situated by nature, and was esteemed a master-piece of art; but this, as well as the rest of the fortifications, is in a state of decay.

This is one of the principal magazines for the British army, on account of the easy navigation of the Scheldt.

The great church here is finely ornamented with marble, and very fine sculpture, though but few paintings of any considerable merit. The several ornaments and vessels pertaining to their worship here are very rich, and have a splendid appearance, which to us, whose mode of worship consists less in external grandeur, appears new, and is viewed with no small degree of curiosity.

This

April.
25th. This day we removed our quarters from Tournay to the village of Orcq, about two miles on the Lisle road, at which place we were cantoned in barns, or as the situation of the place would permit; the enemy's advanced posts coming within five miles of Tournay, a camp of Austrian cavalry and Prussian infantry laying a little on our left.

29th. A great number of Hanoverian cavalry arrived at Tournay, under the command of Prince Ernest Augustus, brother to our Royal Duke.

30th. This day a considerable number of Hanoverian infantry arrived.

May.
1st. About midnight the army was ordered under arms, and it was thought some sudden attack was to be made; but in consequence of the wetness of the night, and badness of the roads, we returned again about two o'clock this morning.

This afternoon the Prussians struck their tents and marched off; a heavy cannonade was heard all day, which was supposed to be the allies investing Condé.

A smart

A smart skirmish took place early this morning, between some Austrian cavalry and the enemy, wherein the former had the advantage.

Three regiments of Hanoverian cavalry came from Tournay, and encamped behind our cantonments.

Several skirmishes took place every day between the advanced picquets, but of no consequence.

The enemy having strongly entrenched themselves in the woods of St. Amand, reinforced by the greatest part of General Dampier's army, which had been encamped at the strong post of Famars, made a general attack on General Clairfait's posts, at the abbey of Vicogné and the wood of St. Amand, but were repulsed with great loss.

The Austrians and Prussians having sustained the first attack, the British, under the command of the Duke of York, marched about one o'clock this morning, as a reserve, till we arrived at the Prussian camp at Maulde, where we halted a considerable

May.
2d.

8th.

May. siderable time. The action was now become general, from Condé to the Scarpe, and a dreadful cannonade was heard from every quarter. After we had halted some time, we advanced through the town of St. Amand, on the Chaussee, to Valenciennes, the Coldstream battalion being advanced a considerable time before us, to reinforce the Prussians. The flank battalion soon after was ordered for the same purpose to another place. The two remaining battalions no sooner had passed through the town, than they met a great number of wounded, both of the Prussians and Coldstream; that battalion having suffered considerably, being led up against a battery, and then forced to abandon it. Ensign Howard, of the Coldstream, who carried the colours, and a serjeant-major and two serjeants, were wounded, and seventy-three rank and file killed, wounded, and missing.

This was the first time the British guards were engaged, and by their courage and

and intrepidity gained a considerable share in the glory of that day, when the enemy was totally routed, and took refuge at their strong camp at Famars.

The Austrians had upwards of 500 killed and wounded, and the Prussians 300.

About seven o'clock this morning, 9th, we advanced a considerable way towards the enemy, who had not yet left the wood: we halted some time near the Abbey Vicogne, we then returned towards St. Amand, and lay on the road that night.

Early this morning, the Austrians and Prussians attacked the rear of the flying Carmagnols; soon after which we had intelligence that the enemy had been drove entirely off with great slaughter, and a number taken prisoners. We were ordered to return to our cantonments where we arrived this evening.

Nothing extra.

This day we fired a feu de joie on account of our late victories.

C

Nothing

May.

13th.

14th.

15th.

16th.

17th.

18th.

19th.

20th.

Nothing extra.

A considerable number of English light cavalry arrived at Tournay.

Nothing extra.

Nothing extra.

Nothing extra.

Received orders to march the next morning at six o'clock.

Marched at six o'clock through Tournay, on the road towards Valenciennes; and about twelve o'clock arrived at a small village called Briuelle, where we were quartered two or three companies at a house. Our column consisted of the brigade of foot guards, the 14th, 37th, and 53d regiments, and a great number of Hanoverian infantry. The Hanoverian and British light cavalry covered our rear.

Marched at five o'clock in the morning, and about one P. M. halted, and pitched our tents for the first time. Prince Cobourg viewed us this day as we passed along, marching by him in slow time.

Head

Head quarters were at a village called Bassing, a fine country all around, with fine crops on the ground.

Halted to refresh the troops.

According to the orders we received, we struck our tents at ten and marched at eleven o'clock A. M.; and after a very fatiguing march, on account of the frequent halting of the army, in making the proper disposition for the intended attack next day, we arrived at a fine plain, near which was the Austrian camp of Quiverrain: our camp ground was marked out, but we soon received orders to be in readiness to march at 11 o'clock that same night. Having dressed some victuals as time and place would admit, we marched about midnight, with the greatest silence and circumspection; past the Austrian camp towards the enemy.

This day the French were forced from their strong camp at Faimars, on which occasion the left wing of the allied army, commanded by the Duke of York, emi-

May.

21st.

22d.

23d.

May.

nently distinguished itself. About one o'clock in the morning we halted, and lay upon our arms two hours, giving time for the other parts of the army to make their several movements; a great number of Austrian cavalry and infantry passing by us; we moved forward again about three o'clock, and about four the several dispositions for a general attack being made, it commenced about five, and with such spirit and resolution, on the part of the allied army, that the enemy soon gave way in every quarter, and retreated to Valenciennes.

No general engagement took place, but several partial skirmishes at the detached redoubts of the enemy, which were attacked and defended with much bravery on both sides.

The troops which displayed their valour and activity most, were the Hanoverian flying artillery, with the British light cavalry, and those of the several other nations, as the nature of the engagement,

May.
23d.

gagements were chiefly adapted to their mode of warfare, in pursuing a flying enemy in an open country, where very few impediments occur to obstruct their progress.

It was a glorious sight, as the morning was serene and clear, to see the line of battle formed for an extent of several miles; in one place squadrons of cavalry charging each other in full career, in another the enemy flying and our's pursuing, with the flying artillery, displaying all the skill and dexterity peculiar to themselves; and the brigade of guards was so situated in the morning, that they could behold almost the whole scene of action at one view.

The loss on our side was very small, considering the importance and commanding situation of the hill of Famars, which was also defended with redoubts so advantageously situated, that a determined body of troops might have defended it against a much superior force.

May.

We lay on the ground without our tents this night, which was excessive cold. The foreign troops plundered wherever they came, without hinderance, and generally destroyed what they could not take away : but the British were always strictly forbidden to plunder.

24th.

About three o'clock in the morning we stood to our arms, his Royal Highness the Duke riding along the line, to see the troops get under arms. As we passed Famars, we saw on the top of the hill in the centre of the grand redoubt, the monument erected to the memory of the French General Dampier, who was killed by a cannon ball the 8th of May, said to be from the British artillery ; his thigh was shot off close to his groin :—it was raised ten or twelve feet high, with three sides of painted canvas, with inscriptions in praise of their late commander in chief, and expressive of the prevailing sentiments of that nation ; above it arose the common badge of their triumph, the Tree of

Liberty,

Liberty, surmounted with the Cap in proper style; it was suffered to remain uninjured by our troops. It is said he was threatened to lose his head if he did not take possession of St. Amand that day on which he was killed.

May.

Valenciennes and Condé being now left uncovered, the siege of the first was begun in form, and the latter more closely invested.

A heavy cannonade which commenced yesterday still continued, from the out-works of Valenciennes, particularly on the Prussian army, who made near approaches to the north side of the town; in the mean time measures were taken to commence a close siege. His Royal Highness the Duke of York had the chief command of the besieging army, and Prince Cobourg that of the covering army.

25th.

This is a fine, open, fertile country, delightfully variegated with gentle rising hills, and pleasant vallies; in one of

May.
25th.

which lies Valenciennes on the river Scheldt. This river washes the north-west part of the town, where there are also some marshy ground, which might retard the approach of an enemy; but the other side, viz. the south-east, is a dry, chalky soil, and more level: here the chief scene of action during the siege was carried on: the trenches extending from near the river side on the east, to Marley, a considerable village, with a fine piece of water on the south: in this village a great number of the enemy made a stand, it being under the cannon of the town.

A considerable quantity of firelocks, pouches, and other warlike instruments, were found in the houses of the country people.

Every house was plundered in a most unfeeling manner, by the Austrians and others of the foreign troops; whose hardened hearts, neither the entreaties of old age, the tears of beauty, the cries of children,

children, nor all the moving scenes of the most accumulated distress, can touch with pity ; nor do they content themselves with taking whatever may be useful to them, but destroy whatever they cannot carry away. It would seem the Austrians are not allowed by their laws to plunder in such a degree ; for this day one of their officers detected a soldier plundering a poor woman's house of all she had, when, moved with compassion, he ordered him to desist ; but he refusing, the officer drew his sword and killed him instantly on the spot.

May.

Early this morning our troops began a heavy bombardment on the village of Marley, in which a number of French lay ; it was soon set on fire, and continued burning the whole day. It could expect no other fate, as it lay between the town and the lines of our encampment.

26th.

Several movements took place in the army, the Austrians taking their post on the right, next the river, the British on the

27th.

May.

the left, and the other auxiliaries between. The head quarters are at Estraux, and the left of the British reaches as far as the heights of Famars. The Prussians, with some other troops, occupies the north side of the river.

28th.

The enemy was very quiet this morning, but in the afternoon several large pieces of ordnance were fired from the town.

29th.

Nothing extra.

30th.

This day a great number of shot and shells were fired from the town,

31st.

The enemy were very quiet during the day, but at night a great number of shot was fired, as our piquets advanced pretty near their out-works,

June.

1st.

A heavy cannonading was heard towards Condé, which is invested by General Clairfait's army.

2d.

About ten o'clock at night a working party from the brigade of guards, and the brigade of the line, consisting of about 300 men, and a strong covering party, marched towards the town, and under the direction

-

tion of the engineer, began the entrenchments; the Austrians at the same time firing according to their strength. The enemy were apprized of it, and fired a great deal; they also threw a number of light balls, with very good judgment; but before three o'clock, each party had made a cover sufficient for their own security.

June.

At night, the working parties, &c. as last night. The Prussians amuse them pretty well on the north side of the town, as there is often a heavy firing heard on that side.

3d.

There are three of our royal family present here at this time, viz. his Royal Highness the Duke of York, their Royal Highnesses Prince Ernest Augustus, and Prince Adolphus. The weather gets very sultry, but the heaviest part of our duty is always at night. Several skirmishes happen between our advanced piquets and the enemy, who sometimes fall out of their works, but nothing has been done of any consequence.

We

June.
4th.

We hear that this morning a convoy, consisting of several waggons loaded with provisions and ammunition, are taken from the enemy by our troops. It was designed to be thrown into Valenciennes, but came too late.

The enemy has been very quiet this day; very little firing.

This being his Majesty's birth day, was not observed in any public manner, except in uncasing and displaying our regimental colours.

5th.

The whole of this day a heavy cannonade was heard from Condé. In the evening the enemy attempted to reach our encampments with their shots and shells, but without being able; a shell, however, reached to within a very small distance of the Coldstream quarter guard.

6th.

The enemy have been very quiet this day, hardly a gun has been heard.

7th.

The enemy are very quiet; no cannon has been fired from the town, but they are continually coming out of their batteries at night, firing small shot upon our piquets,

pickets, which are near them. We have a redoubt with three pieces of cannon mounted on it, which commands the ground near the town, and prevents them from coming much out in the day.

The enemy very quiet; no firing heard this day.

Several guns were fired from the town this afternoon, but did no damage. About ten o'clock at night several shells were seen in the air towards Condé.

Changed our position in the line of encampment this afternoon; during the march of the regiments, the French fired several shots at us, but without effect.

The enemy were very quiet, very little firing heard during the course of the day.

A good deal of skirmishing between the advanced pickets this morning, but with little loss on either side.

In the afternoon they fired very heavy on our batteries, and videts; notwithstanding our work goes on briskly, and many

June.

8th.

9th.

10th.

11th.

12th.

June. many batteries, and the entrenchments are in great forwardness. Several of their shot fell very near our videts; one horse was killed, but the rider was not hurt, and some shot fell not far from our encampment: they continued firing all this afternoon, till darkness put an end to it.

13th. The enemy fired several pieces of heavy ordnance from the town this morning.

His Royal Highness, the commander in chief, ordered, that a working party, consisting of 750 men, under the command of a field officer, from the brigade of British infantry, should parade this evening on the right of the British encampment: they assembled about half past six o'clock, and marched about eight, with a covering party of 500 men, composed of light dragoons, Austrian heavy cavalry, and Hanoverian grenadiers; they marched towards our works, and immediately began to open the trenches upon the town: the enemy were very quiet during the night.

This

This morning they began very early to annoy our men at work, by throwing a great number of shells and shot towards the entrenchments and batteries which we had constructed during the night. A number of their shells burst close to our men, who, though they were very little accustomed to such visitors, soon learned to evade them, by clapping down flat on the ground until they burst.

June.
14th.

The working party that went out last night, were relieved this morning about fix o'clock, by another of the same strength; they kept working, and the enemy continued firing at small intervals during the course of this day. There were above 4000 men at work, including Austrians, British, Hanoverians, &c.

The enemy threw a vast number of shells in the night at our trenches, which are now in great forwardness; they are wide and deep enough for ammunition waggons to pass and repass unseen by the enemy.

An

June.

An officer of the Austrians was killed this day by the bursting of a shell in the trenches : an officer of 37th regiment was also wounded by a shell.

None of the British were killed, although several were wounded this day ; but a number of the Hanoverian infantry were killed and wounded.

15th.

The enemy continued firing without intermission this day ; two men of the 1st regiment of guards were wounded this morning by a shell ; also one of the 14th regiment, but not to appearance mortal. Considering the amazing number of shells and shot they threw, and the number of men at work, it is very providential that so few are hurt by them.

During the night, the firing was kept up with the same degree of vigour, but no hurt was sustained on our part during the whole night.

The working parties are relieved twice during the twenty-four hours, namely, in the morning, and evening, and the covering party once, viz. in the evening.

Duty runs very hard at present with us, having scarcely one night in bed, but the soldiers perform every part of their duty with the utmost cheerfulness.

June.

A surgeon and mate attend constantly in the depots behind the trenches, for the purpose of dressing the wounded men.

His Royal Highness frequently visits the trenches in person, and seems much pleased with the alertness of the men at work.

This morning an officer of the Austrian engineers was wounded in the head, in two different places, by a shell; a soldier of the light infantry was also wounded in the knee. No material damage was done during the day, and they remained very quiet all the night.

16th.

In the morning commenced a heavy cannonade, which was as briskly answered by an Austrian battery towards the post of Mount Anzin.

17th.

About four o'clock in the afternoon the enemy began a terrible cannonade on our trenches, on the left towards the vil-

June.

lage of Marley, under cover of which some hundreds of them sallied out of the town, on purpose, if possible, to gain possession of our works; but our covering parties repelled them with great spirit, and drove them back to their works, killing and wounding a great number, with very little loss on our side. During the skirmish, one of the 3d regiment, and one of the 53d were killed in the trenches by a shell.

18th.

About three o'clock this morning, the enemy began a tremendous fire; about two o'clock P. M. our batteries opened for the first time, and commenced a very warm fire of shot and shells, which soon made them slack their fire. A piece of shell broke the thigh bone of one of the 1st regiment, killed one of the 53d regiment, and wounded two more.

Our batteries threw into the town, in the course of the night, above 800 shells, which were not answered by the enemy more than one to thirty. Most part of the shot we fired into the town were red

hot, which, with the shells, began to set June.
some parts of it on fire.

This morning two of our men were 19th.
killed, one by a grape shot which went
through his heart, the other by a can-
non ball which went through his body ;
one belonged to the 1st regiment, the
other to the Coldstream grenadiers : they
were both on a working party. A sur-
geon was also wounded in the foot by a
shell.

During the night, we could see flames
burst out in several places of the town,
some of which continued burning a long
time.

When a shell is fired from our batteries,
a red hot shot generally accompanies it.

It rained very much all this day, and
the enemy kept up but a very slack fire,
while dreadful showers of shot and shells
poured in upon them from our batteries
without intermission.

The enemy commenced a very brisk 20th.
fire at day-light, and kept it up till to-
wards the evening, when it began to

D 2 slacken,

June. slacken, but we kept up a constant fire during both day and night. We could perceive great numbers of our shells burst in the town, with a noise resembling distant thunder. It must be very distressing to the inhabitants, for the town is very close built, and the frequent fires seen blazing, is a proof that our artillery does great execution. Five men were wounded in the trenches this day, four of the guards and one of the line.

The enemy fired a great deal from their out-works, with small arms, this evening, but did us no damage.

21st. This morning we could plainly perceive a breach made in the side of the steeple of the great church. During this day the enemy were much more quiet than they have been since the trenches have been opened.

About eleven o'clock at night, some new mortar batteries opened upon the enemy, and threw a vast number of shells into the town, accompanied, as usual, with red hot shot.

Between twelve and one o'clock this morning we perceived the large buildings on the left of the great church to be on fire; it continued burning with great fury till it was consumed to the ground, the fire of which communicating with the main body of the church, set it all on a blaze: this church was one of their principal magazines, for forage, arms, &c. about four o'clock the roof fell in, when the flames burst out with greater fury than ever.

June.
22d.

Two other fires raged with uncontrollable fury in the town at the same time, but we could not see the effects of them, as the works of the town intercepted our sight.

While that raging element, fire, was destroying all before it, in three several places with irresistible force, and flaming showers of shells and shot descending in all parts of the town, the darkness of the night made more dreadful by sudden death glaring in all his fiery terrors, added to the tremendous thunder of ar-

June.
22d.

tillery all around, mixed with groans and cries of wounded and dying men, women, and children!

The anguish and distress of the wretched inhabitants may, in part, be conceived, but can never be described by human tongue or pen. By the light of the fire we could plainly perceive the French running to and fro in great confusion, and at some intervals could hear their clamorous noise. They fired but very little during the night, but all our batteries played on the town without intermission.

This morning a shell burst close to a Hanoverian soldier, as he was asleep in the trenches ; his body was blown all to atoms, and never seen more, except one arm, which was found in the trench.

Our approaches are carrying on very close to the town, our men can hear them talking very plain in their works.

They are continually firing musketry at our working men, endeavouring to hit their

their heads as they throw the earth over
the trench.

June.

This afternoon two deserters came in to us from the enemy, who fired several shot after them, but without effect; they say the French are in great want, both of provisions and ammunition, and that the inhabitants would fain prevail upon the governor to give up the town before it is quite destroyed.

The enemy have been very quiet during the whole day, and at night our batteries began with redoubled fury again, and set the town on fire in four several places; eight or ten shells might be seen blazing above the town at one time. The fire lasted for several hours, and burnt with great fury.

The enemy have been remarkably quiet this day, as well as yesterday, the reason of which we cannot conjecture; but our batteries keep firing with unremitting activity, especially in the night time, which never fail setting some part of the town on fire.

23d.

June. Another deserter came in from the enemy this afternoon, with his arms and accoutrements ; he says, a vast number of the people in the town are killed and wounded, and many hundreds of houses burnt down, and that many of his comrades would willingly come over to us, if they could find opportunity.

24th. The enemy kept up a kind of faint fire this day. A 3d regiment grenadier got up to look over the trench towards the enemy, and turning to speak to some one behind him, a cannon ball took his head clean off : another of the 3d regiment was wounded by a shell. The firing from our batteries continues with the same activity.

25th. This morning some new batteries were opened on the town, from a height which lies a considerable way to the left of our lines ; they were all manned with British artillery, and constructed under the direction of Major Wright of our artillery, who commanded them. As they lay on a commanding eminence, they annoy the enemy

enemy very much, who returned their fire very briskly. June.

As our new batteries direct their shot and shells with great judgment, which distress the enemy very much, they returned their fire this day with great fury; but during the night they fired very little, while all the batteries round the town kept thundering away without intermission.

The weather has been remarkably wet ever since the trenches were opened, which is a very disagreeable circumstance.

The enemy direct their attention chiefly to our new batteries, which gall them very much.

This evening, for a little time, not a gun was fired from either side, but at night our batteries re-commenced firing again with their usual ardour.

The firing from our lines kept up with the usual vigour; the enemy fired very little towards the lines, but the new batteries seem to take all their attention, a proof that they suffer a great deal by them.

Very

June.

29th.

Very early this morning our batteries from the lines opened the warmest fire upon the enemy's works that has been since the siege began; it forced them to abandon their horn-works, and did them considerable damage.

Yesterday afternoon three of the towns people made their escape into the trenches; they had been sent out to cut forage, and no guard being with them, as was customary, they took that opportunity to make off. Being conducted to head quarters, his Royal Highness examined them himself; they said that the greatest part of the inhabitants of the town wished to give it up, but the general and the artillery were determined to hold it out to the last extremity.

This morning three more of the inhabitants made their escape. At night our batteries continued firing as usual.

30th.

Three of the guards were wounded this day, one mortally, belonging to the 1st regiment. The firing continued as usual.

The

The firing continued with great fury from our batteries, as on the preceding day.

July.
1st.

The left of our trenches reached as far as the village of Marley, which was burnt down on the 26th of May last, and the first battery on the left consisted of four long eighteen pounders: next to that was a battery mounting six thirteen and one-half inch mortars: next was one of four long eighteen pounders: then another of six long eighteen pounders: next another of six thirteen and one-half inch mortars: next to that one of ten and one-half inch howitzers: next, a fine battery of six twenty-four pounders: there are several batteries besides these in the rear on the heights.

The firing continued from our lines as usual into their out-works, which harassed them not a little, as we could perceive them at work all day; they threw several howitzer shells into our advanced parallels, but did very little damage, besides wounding one man of the working party.

2d.

Several

July.

Several of their shells fell near our trenches, and did not burst at all, which must be owing to some defect in the fusee.

Our batteries threw a vast number of shells into the town during the night, which were faintly answered by the enemy.

3d.

This day Lieutenant-colonel the Earl of Cavan was wounded in the head by a piece of a shell; it is thought not to be dangerous. The night passed as usual.

4th.

This day our batteries kept up a brisk fire on the town, and all the night our riflemen on the advanced posts kept up a constant fire of small arms upon those of the enemy. Five men belonging to the guards were wounded this day.

5th.

We kept working, and the enemy continued firing howitzer shells into our second parallel; they threw several shells directly into the trench, but luckily only one man was killed; he belonged to the 14th foot, a shell fell on him as he stood in the trench, and severed his body in two.

Our

Our trenches are carried very near the enemy's works, and our men are constantly railing at the French over the trenches; we can see the effects of our shot in some of their large buildings, which appear full of holes like a sieve.

July.

A shell from the enemy this forenoon fell into a small magazine of powder, behind one of the batteries, which it blew up, with an Austrian officer of artillery, and a corporal; some small fragments of their bodies and cloaths were found afterwards: one of the 3d regiment was killed, and one of the 1st regiment wounded.

6th.

Yesterday afternoon an Irishman, belonging to the 14th regiment of foot, deserted to the enemy; he got over unperceived by any of our men, but as he was climbing over the enemy's palisades, an Austrian rifleman observed him, and immediately acquainted our officers. During the night our batteries kept up a heavy fire on the town; and set several parts of it on fire, which burned all night.

The

July.

The enemy still continue a heavy cannonade on Major Wright's battery ; one of the guns was dismounted yesterday, two men killed, and several wounded.

7th.

This morning a shell fell into our trench, it burst, and wounded five men of the 53d regiment, some very dangerously.

The enemy did not fire much this forenoon, but at night as usual.

8th.

The enemy has brought a number of guns and mortars to an angle of their works, from which they have played pretty smartly this day, but have not done us much damage.

An accident happened to a soldier of the 16th regiment of light dragoons this day ; he had got a shell into the camp by some means or other, and curiosity excited him to try to get the fusee out, in doing of which it caught fire between his legs, and tore one thigh and the other leg entirely off ; he died soon after.

In the evening one of the 1st regiment was wounded in the arm so badly, that it

it was cut off as soon as he reached the July. hospital.

Early this morning a soldier of the 9th. Coldstream was killed by a shell in the trenches, and in the afternoon another belonging to the 3d regiment was wounded. About 10 o'clock at night our mortar batteries began a tremendous fire upon the town, and in a short time a great fire broke out, seemingly about the centre of the town, which raged with great fury, and spread a considerable way all round.

Our batteries kept roaring continually 10th. upon the enemy, which was but faintly answered by them. This morning a sergeant of the 14th regiment had a piece of his thigh taken away by a shell as he was coming out of the trenches.

In the forenoon our shells set the town on fire in two several places, which burnt more fiercely than any fire which has happened in the day time; the flames, though the sun was shining very bright, were plain to be seen bursting out from behind a large building covered with slate.

This

July.

This evening we received the agreeable intelligence that Condé has surrendered to the Imperial arms ; this will greatly facilitate our opérations against Valenciennes.

At night the enemy threw shells and hand grenades towards our trenches for the first time, but our batteries in return sent shells, hand grenades, and baskets filled with flint stones, which were fired out of mortars directly into their works ; no damage was sustained on our side during the night.

11th.

This morning another large fire was kindled in their works, which burnt till about six o'clock, when they got it under by some means or other..

One man of the 1st regiment of grenadiers was wounded this day.

A great number of miners have been employed some time in carrying several mines from the trenches towards the town.

The weather is excessive hot at present.

Our artillery kept thundering at the town all night as usual, which was faintly returned by the enemy.

This

This day one of the Coldstream regiment was dangerously wounded by a piece of a shell which took his foot off; the firing kept up at night as usual.

July.

13th.

This day the French troops marched out of Condé, and some distance from the town, laid down their arms, and surrendered themselves to the Austrian troops.

13th,

During this day and night our batteries kept firing with great fury as usual.

This morning all the troops around Valenciennes fired a feu-de-joie for the taking of Condé; also our batteries redoubled their fire at the same time against the town, and at night as usual.

14th.

This day a soldier of the 1st regiment was dangerously wounded with a shell. Heavy firing at night as usual.

15th.

This morning about five o'clock a trumpet was sounded from the enemy's works, as a signal for a parley; in consequence of which the firing ceased on both sides immediately; a flag of truce came out to our trenches, and was con-

E

ducted

July.
16th.

ducted to his Royal Highness the Duke of York.

During the interval of firing, our men went out of the trenches towards them, and conversed with each other a considerable time, with all the familiarity and good nature imaginable; they seemed willing to give the town up, only they say their Governor, General Ferrand, dares not do it, until he has defended it a certain time.

The purport of the flag of truce was, to demand leave for a lady, near the time of her delivery, to leave the town, which his Royal Highness accordingly granted.

About eleven o'clock this forenoon, at which time the truce expired, a gun was fired from the town, as a signal for each party to prepare for action; it was laughable to see our men (who till that moment stood talking with the French) running to their posts, and tumbling neck and heels into their trenches. The firing then commenced on both sides with redoubled vigour, and continued all the after-

afternoon; and our people at night as usual.

July.

Our third parallel is now completed, the batteries finished, and the guns mounted. This parallel is carried very close to the enemy's lines, and when the batteries open, must, of course, do great execution. Our mines are also ready for springing, the powder has been conveyed into the chambers some nights since. Our working parties are discontinued, and every thing being thus finished and ready, should the garrison hold out much longer after the opening of the third parallel, it is thought the town will be stormed.

The firing continued this day and night as usual. One of the 3d regiment was wounded by a shell as the covering party entered the trenches.

17th.

This day four of the Coldstream were wounded by a shell, one very dangerously, having his arm taken off during the night. Firing as usual.

18th.

A serjeant of 14th regiment was killed, and two soldiers of the same regi-

19th.

July. ment wounded. At night the enemy threw a number of shells towards our trenches, but did no damage.

20th. This day two of our light infantry were wounded by a shell. At night the enemy fired a great deal of musketry from their horn-works, but with very little effect.

21st. The weather is fine and dry, which makes our duty much more agreeable. Firing as usual.

22d. A grenadier of the 1st regiment was killed by a shell this day. The firing kept up with as much spirit as usual.

23d. This morning at four o'clock, several new batteries on the third parallel opened upon the town with such spirit, that in a few hours they silenced many of the enemy's guns ; and at night continued with redoubled fury. One man of the 3d regiment was killed, and two wounded, one of which had both his legs and arms taken off.

24th. A very heavy fire, both of shells and shot this day ; only one of the 1st regi-
ment

ment of grenadiers was wounded, but a great number of the Hanoverian and Austrian artillery were killed and wounded. Our British artillery manned some of the new batteries which were opened yesterday morning, two were killed, and one lost his leg yesterday, and one was blown up by an accident of some powder catching fire.

July.

The enemy's fire since the opening of these last mentioned batteries, has been very languid. A great deal of musketry fired during the night.

This afternoon a number of men was ordered for the purpose of storming the out-works of the town this evening. The British infantry furnished 300 men, viz. 150 from the brigade of guards, and 150 from the brigade of the line, under the command of Major-general Abercrombie. We were ordered to be in readiness at the center communication, at Marley, in the evening. It was pre-concerted to spring three mines, and immediately after the

25th.

E 3 spring-

July.
25th.

springing of the last, the troops were to begin the attack.

Accordingly in the evening the first mine was sprung, then the second, and third, with the space of eight minutes between each: Immediately on the springing of the third, the troops being ready, rushed in with the utmost impetuosity, jumping over the palisadoes, and through the breaches the mines had made, like the rushing of a flood, and carried all before them at the point of the bayonet. The enemy made a stout resistance, but were forced to leave us in possession of their works.

There was a great number killed on both sides, but the brigade of guards suffered but little; yet we have to regret the loss of Capt. Tollemache, killed, and Captain Warde of the same regiment wounded. An officer of the 14th regiment was killed.

The 1st regiment had 1 rank and file killed, 1 serjeant, and 2 rank and file wounded. Coldstream, 2 rank and file wounded.

wounded. Third regiment, 1 serjeant, July.
and 1 rank and file wounded.

His Royal Highness expressed the greatest satisfaction with the conduct of the officers and men employed on this expedition.

This day the enemy fired very little ; we suppose last night's work has somewhat humbled their pride. We had a grenadier of the 1st regiment killed this day, and three of the 3d wounded, one of which died next day. The 1st regiment had one wounded.

Very late this night a flag of truce was sent in to the governor, with a summons to surrender, or otherwise threatening to storm the town. The firing immediately ceased on both sides.

Not a gun had been fired on either side this day ; it is said the governor has a certain time allowed to consider of his final answer.

Nine deserters came over to us this day, and an officer, who says the enemy are beginning to disagree among them-

July. selves, so that of course they must soon surrender. One of the deserters who speaks a little English, says, that on our storming their out-works, they were thrown into the greatest confusion imaginable. No firing this night.

28th. This morning about six o'clock, a flag of truce was sent from head quarters to require General Ferrand's final answer; but before they reached the town, they met a general of the French, accompanied by three officers, a serjeant, and a trumpeter, who were sent from the town to settle the terms of the capitulation.

Accordingly the terms were agreed upon, and this evening a detachment from the British infantry, consisting of 400 men, under the command of Colonel Sir James Duff, took possession of the outer gate of Valenciennes, leading to Cambrai.

All quiet this night.

29th. On the 27th a draught from England joined the brigade of guards, under the command of Colonel Watson of the

3d regiment, consisting of near 600 men, among them were three light infantry companies, one from each regiment, viz: the 1st company commanded by Lieutenant-colonel Ludlow; Coldstream by Lieutenant-colonel Eld; and the 3d regiment by Lieutenant-colonel Campbell, which three companies were joined to the flank battalion of guards, which now consisted of eight companies.

This morning the Hanoverian grenadiers relieved the British detachment at the town-gate.

The troops are cleaning themselves, and preparing to take possession of the town to-morrow, which is the day appointed for the French marching out of it.

This morning the French troops marched out of the town with all the honours of war, drums beating, colours flying, and a few field pieces, and all their baggage, &c. and after getting to a convenient place, they laid down their arms, and marched off to their own country.

The

July.

30th.

31st.

Aug.
1st.

Aug.
1st.

The garrison consisted still of about 7000 effective men. From the hardness of their duty, in the obstinate defence they made, it could not be expected for them to make a fine appearance; notwithstanding some squadrons of their cavalry looked exceeding well, their cloathing uniform, and their horses in good condition, but a great number of the infantry were of a very small stature, and their cloathing in general very ragged.

They had a number of fine women, clean, and well dressed, riding on their baggage waggons.

The army formed two lines, one on each side of the road leading to Cambray, to a vast extent, between which they marched along; some looked very cheerful, others fierce and disdainful. General Ferrand, who rode at the head of the line, had a very solemn countenance, rather downcast.

Prince Cobourg and the Duke of York were both present; the former had an exceeding numerous train of attendants.

The

Aug.
2d.

The men who were employed on the storming party on the 25th of July, were all posted next the Cambray gate, whilst the French troops marched out, as a post of honour.

After the troops were clear out of the town, the magistrates came and delivered the keys to Prince Cobourg and the Duke of York, in the usual formality. A garrison of the Austrian troops then took possession of it.

The British and other troops had leave given them to view the town of Valenciennes.

2d.

To view it from the ramparts on the east side of the town, which was most exposed to our cannon, nothing could appear more distressed and ruinous ; not a house could be seen that was not either burnt or partly thrown down ; the streets filled with rubbish, mixed with cannon balls and pieces of shells. The miserable inhabitants who now durst crawl out of their hiding places, looked blank and doubtful ; they were released from the

Aug. the terrors of death; but their all was destroyed, and the uncertainty of their future condition impressed the marks of dejection deeply on every countenance.

3d. We viewed some of the hospitals in the town; they were all crowded with sick or wounded men, women, and children, of all ages: in one of them, five carcases lay in a corner, piled one upon another; and in another place was a child lying unburied, and others dying every hour. We are informed there were 13,000 troops in the town at the beginning of the siege, and only 7000 marched out; the rest are either dead or in the hospitals.

4th. Provisions of every kind are crowding into the town; and it begins to assume a more cheerful aspect. The Emperor is going to repair the town and fortifications as soon as possible. This day the man who deserted from the 14th regiment of foot, on the 5th of July (having been found in the town when it was delivered up, and tried by a

general

general court martial) was hung on a tree
behind the British encampment.

Aug.

Orders issued to march to-morrow morning at five o'clock. The French having a considerable force in or near Cambray, the movement is intended against them.

This morning the heavy baggage was sent off to St. Amand, and twelve tents per company ordered to go with us. About six o'clock we marched, and after a fatiguing journey, on account of the excessive heat of the weather, we arrived at a piece of ground about fourteen miles distant, where we pitched our camp, except the flank battalion, which, as an advanced piquet, lodged in a village about a mile distant.

6th.

The army marched about three o'clock this morning, in a direction towards the south of Cambray.

7th.

As it was a fine open country, we were under no necessity of keeping the roads, but made our own roads according to the

Aug.

the intended route, almost like a ship at sea.

This afternoon, about the time we halted, the 15th regiment of light dragoons, being on the advanced guard, fell in with upwards of 200 of the enemy's cavalry, which they completely routed, killed several, and took prisoners, two officers, and forty-four men, with sixteen led horses.

8th.

This morning at four o'clock, the army was in motion, and the French having retreated, we made a circuit round the south side of Cambray; being within view of that famous town, and encamped near the village of Bourlon, in which village the flank battalion was quartered.

9th.

The army halted this day to refresh the troops. The village of Bourlon lies to the west of Cambray, about six miles distant; it is a delightful country, the prospect being continually diversified, with gentle rising hills, fruitful villages, and fine crops on the ground.

Aug.
10th.

About eight o'clock this morning the army marched, fetching our circuit round the north side of Cambray, and directing our course eastward, we passed several redoubts, entrenchments, &c. of the enemy, this day, some constructed with much art and labour. We now bent our course towards Marchiennes; and pitched near the village of Bruille.

11th.

About seven o'clock this morning the army was in motion, and passing through the town of Marchiennes, marched along the chaussee to Orchies, near which place the army encamped.

12th.

The army halted, and the heavy baggage which was sent from Valenciennes to St. Amand, joined us.

13th.

Nothing extra.

14th.

The siege of Dunkirk being determined upon, under the command of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, and the covering army under the command of General Freytag, part of our army marched this day on their route for that place.

Aug.
15th.

Struck our tents and marched at five o'clock this morning, passed Tournay on our right, and encamped seven or eight miles west of that place, near a small village called Rue.

16th.

Marched about four o'clock in the morning ; passed through Lannoy (in which were some Prussian cavalry) leaving Doubaix on our left, and through Tourcoign, near which place we encamped. The Dutch troops occupy Tourcoign.

We lay this night, as we have several nights before, without our tents, the baggage not coming up.

The Austrian light cavalry which covered our left flank towards Lifle, this day had several slight skirmishes with the French.

17th.

The brigade of guards halted this day, except the flank battalion, which marched in the morning, passed though Menin, and encamped near a village called Ghelius, with some other corps. A remarkable shower

shower of rain fell this day, after these
troops had passed through Menin:

Aug.

The flank battalion halted, and the
other three battalions marching in the
morning, halted near Menin on their
arms.

18th.

The Dutch troops having been driven
from the post of Lincelles this day, it
was deemed necessary to retake it; upon
which the three battalions of the guards,
under the command of Major-general
Lake, were ordered immediately on that
service; accordingly we marched about
two o'clock P. M. and about six o'clock
reached the village of Lincelles, where we
found the enemy strongly entrenched, and
well prepared for their defence.

General Lake having made the proper
disposition, the attack began. The 1st
regiment being in front of the column,
began the attack, and the 3d regiment
and Coldstream forming on their left
with the utmost celerity, the whole
line then rushed in upon the enemy
with irresistible force, amidst showers of

F

grape

Aug.
18th.

grape-shot from their redoubts; and after discharging a volley or two of musketry, made a furious charge, accompanied with a loud huzza, mounted their batteries in the face of the enemy, and devoted all they met with to the bayonet.

The French, who had been accustomed to the cold lifeless attacks of the Dutch, were amazed at the spirit and intrepidity of the British, and not much relishing the manner of our salute, immediately gave way, abandoning all that was in the place, and in their flight threw away both arms and accoutrements.

We took one stand of colours, ten pieces of cannon, with two pieces which they had taken from the Dutch, and a number of prisoners. We suppose the number of troops in that place to have amounted to between 5 and 6000; ours were short of 1200.

The following is a Return of our Loss, in Killed and Wounded.

Aug.
18th.

Battalions.	Capt.	Lieu.	Enfi.	Serj.	Dru.	R. & F.
	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.
1st Regiment	•	2	•	3	•	•
Coldstream	I	1	•	•	•	•
3d Regiment.	•	•	•	1	•	•
Total	I	3	•	4	•	34 125

Lieutenant-colonel Bosville of the Coldstream was killed, a man of an amiable disposition, much regretted by all who knew him.

About ten o'clock at night our troops having left off the pursuit, all was quiet; and the 53d and 14th regiments, with some Hessian infantry, coming to relieve us, we marched back to our former ground near Menin, which we reached about three o'clock in the morning, much fatigued.

Aug.
19th.

The troops halted this day, and the late Lieutenant-colonel Bosville was buried; and also Lieutenant Depoister of the royal artillery, attached to the 3d regiment, who was killed yesterday.

20th.

Marched about five o'clock this morning, and in our route passed through the small, but strong town of Ypres, and encamped near a small village called Boesinghe. The brigade of guards lay in an orchard very pleasantly situated.

21st.

At four in the morning the army was in motion, and in our route passed through Furnes, near which town we encamped.

22d.

About four o'clock in the afternoon we marched towards Dunkirk: at the same time the French camp at Gyvelde, which covered Dunkirk, was attacked, and forced; as also several batteries they had erected in the road by the side of the canal, from thence to Dunkirk.

We lay upon our arms among the sand hills, near Gyvelde, all night, which was excessive cold. Some of the soldiers
observing

observing a barn not far off, soon dislodged some of the straw, wheat, barley, &c. that was in it, to cover themselves with.

As soon as it was light, we marched towards Dunkirk in several columns; the guards marched through the village of Gyvelde, where the French camp had been, and along the dyke on the side of the Furnes canal; the Austrians on the right toward the sea; the Hanoverians, Hessians, &c. on the left towards fort Louis, &c. which fort, after a severe engagement, the Hanoverians took possession of.

The Austrians began cannonading some batteries the French had erected on the sand-hills, to oppose them, and drove them back near the town. Our column met with no opposition this day, but marched quietly along the side of the canal, to within about two miles and a half, or three miles of Dunkirk. The three battalions of the guards encamped about a mile to the left of the canal, and

Aug.

the flank battalion encamped in a large field on the right, along with the brigade of the line, &c.

The country people almost all left their houses to the mercy of the army, who made free with what provisions they could find, such as bread, pigs, poultry, &c. As we came up the side of the canal, we saw dead men and horses, which had been killed in the action the night before.

There is a very high tower on Dunkirk, from the top of which they can see all the country round, and which will perhaps prove prejudicial to us, as from thence they may observe all our movements.

4th.

A general attack was made on the enemy's out-posts. The flank battalion advanced through a large tract of garden ground, and other inclosures, surrounded with deep ditches full of water, and strong double hedges, through which they forced their way with their usual intrepidity, obliging the enemy to retreat back

to

Aug.

23th.

to the town with precipitation. We suffered very little from their musketry, because they never attempted to dispute the ground with us, but kept firing and retreating; but they were no sooner got under cover of their own guns, than they began to open upon us with both grape and round shot; and although the hedges, &c. covered us pretty well from their sight, they could not defend us from their shot, and in our retreat to a convenient cover, we suffered considerably both in killed and wounded. The three battalions did not advance, but stood in readiness at a convenient distance.

The two guns attached to the flank battalion did infinite execution among the French infantry as they retreated; having got the command of a certain spot over which the enemy must pass, they cut them down by platoons at a time; but they suffered severely for their bravery; two pieces of cannon which the French had brought to bear upon them, played with unremitting activity, and before

Aug.

night there were but two artillery men of both the guns that was not either killed or wounded.

Among the slain this day was Lieutenant-colonel Eld, Captain of the Cold-stream light company, of whom he was remarkably fond, but had never seen their courage tried till this day, and while in the act of encouraging and praising them for their cool and steady valour, was shot through the heart with a cannon ball. Thus fell a brave and experienced officer, lamented by all who knew him.

Lieutenant-general Dalton, a brave officer in the Austrian service, was also killed, and Captain Williams of the flank battalion was wounded, and about forty rank and file killed and wounded.

25th.

The siege of Dunkirk cannot be carried on by trenches, &c. as that of Valenciennes, on account of the lowness of the ground, intersected with deep ditches, which they can inundate at pleasure, therefore a chain of redoubts is begun,

con-

constructed with gabions, fascines, &c. with communications between.

The flank battalion changed its position, and encamped near the rest of the brigade; several other changes of situation took place in the line.

A great deal of heavy artillery is arrived from Ostend by the canal. The enemy remain very quiet, and our work goes on with the greatest activity.

Ten twenty-four pounders were landed this day, with shot, shells, &c. Numerous detachments at work in every quarter, making fascines, gabions, &c.

The British shipping which were expected here as soon as the army, is not yet in sight, while the enemy have two frigates and other vessels cruising about the mouth of the port.

The enemy made a desperate sortie this afternoon, chiefly on our right flank towards the sea. The Austrians, with our brigade of the line, artillery, &c. stood a most severe conflict, and at last obliged them to retire with great loss. Our loss was

Aug.

26th.

27th.

28th.

Sept.
6th.

Sept,

1702

1702

1702

1702

1702

1702

was also very considerable, and unfortunately among the killed was that brave officer and able engineer, Colonel Moncrief.

7th. The continual rainy weather, and the inundation together, has filled all the ditches and other low places with water, so that we can hardly pass from one place to another without swimming; a great deal of the camp ground was also overflowed.

8th. General Freytag, whose corps covers the siege of this place, was attacked yesterday, and to-day, with a force so superior, as to be obliged to retreat to Hondschoote, which necessarily constrained his Royal Highness the Duke of York to raise the siege with precipitation.

Accordingly about eleven o'clock at night, having struck our tents, loaded the baggage, &c. we began our march, sending off the baggage first, but for want of horses, and the shortness of the time, were obliged to leave about thirty pieces of heavy artillery behind. We marched all night,

CAMPAIGN OF 1793.

75

night, and in the morning arrived at Furnes, and halted on the ground we formerly occupied ; but a great deal of our baggage was lost, owing to the darkness of the night, and the heavy sandy roads through which it had to pass.

Halted on our former ground without tents, our baggage not being unloaded.

The flank battalion, with some light cavalry, moved off this evening, and after marching some miles towards Loo, halted a few hours, and then returned back near Furnes, where we found some of the other battalions also in motion ; we formed together in a field east of the town, in a kind of irregular column, there we rested till day-light next morning.

Crossed a few fields eastward, and halted this day, but no tents, the baggage being sent off towards Ostend.

Marched about three o'clock this morning, taking our route by Aven Capelle, to Dixmuyde, near which town we halted.

Halted

Sept.

9th.

10th,

11th,

12th,

Sept:
13th. Halted this day to rest the troops; the baggage arrived from Ostend, but we did not pitch our tents.

14th. Marched about two in the morning; on our route the 19th, 57th, and three companies of the 42d regiment joined us, having landed at Ostend that morning; we halted that night, (for it was night before we reached the place,) along the side of the high road, near Thorout; dressed some victuals, chiefly potatoes, as many of us lay among them, and be-took ourselves to rest without our tents.

15th. About five o'clock this morning we were under arms, and marched towards Rouselaire, a handsome town on the Mundel river, we passed through it, and halted about two miles southwards towards Menin; it rained very much, this night.

16th. At three o'clock this afternoon we arrived near Menin, and pitched our camp on the same ground we occupied before, on the 18th of August.

Menin

Menin is a very unfortunate town, the Dutch troops being left to defend it, on our going to Dunkirk, the French drove them out, and plundered the town; they had formed a camp outside the town, but retreated on our approach.

Remained in camp, the weather very wet. 17th.

Changed the position of our camp, about a mile farther back, in order to take the advantage of a piece of dry ground, which is a very good situation; a small brook runs along the front of the camp, which makes it both pleasant and convenient. 23d.

The enemy are in considerable force about Worwick, Commines, &c. and our out-posts extend to Hallian, Albeke, &c.: several skirmishes take place, but none as yet of any consequence. 24th.

The 1st battalion 1st regiment having lost all their tents in the retreat from Dunkirk, are now cantoned in a small village behind Menin. 25th.

On

Sept.
26th.

On account of the cold and wetness of the weather, his Royal Highness has been pleased to order a quantity of rum, to be given every day to each man.

We also have begun to thatch our tents, or rather to make huts ; which defend us much better from the cold. This camp is better supplied with every necessary article, such as butter, cheese, milk, &c. than any we have yet seen, and at very reasonable prices.

Oct.
10th.

The brigade of guards, with several other corps, marched at five o'clock this morning, and passing through Menin and Courtray arrived at Peck, a village on the Courtray road, about seven miles from Tournay, where we were quartered, and in the adjacent places.

11th.

Marched about five o'clock in the morning, and encamped in the afternoon on the plain of Cysoign, near Camphin.

12th.

Halted.

13th.

Ditto.

14th.

Marched about two o'clock in the afternoon, and after a very fatiguing journey

9

ney reached St. Amand about ten at night.
Lay in the old monastery.

About seven in the morning we left
St. Amand, and in our route passed close
under the walls of Valenciennes; the
trenches are all filled up, and the works
of the town much repaired.

Encamped on the heights near the
village of Soultain.

Marched at eight o'clock this morning,
and passed close under the walls of Ques-
noy, which surrendered to General Clair-
fai on the 11th of September last, after
a short siege; it is a handsome compact
town, well fortified, and stands on a
commanding eminence, with a fine open
country around it.

We encamped this evening at Engle-
fontaine, about half way between Ques-
noy and Landrecy. Our brigade occu-
pied some huts which had been erected
by some part of our army, who were
now removed to another quarter.

This day and yesterday the French
made a violent attack on General Clair-
fai,

oa. fait, who covered the siege of Maubeuge. On the former day they were defeated, but on the second they succeeded in cutting off his communication with the besieging army, which obliged the Prince of Cobourg to relinquish his undertaking.

It is, however, a singular circumstance, that notwithstanding the issue proved unfavourable, twenty-two pieces of cannon and two howitzers were taken by the Austrians in those two days without any being lost by them.

This circumstance, perhaps, made it unnecessary for us to proceed any further on our present route.

17th. Halted at Englefontaine.

19th. Received the news in our camp, that the Prussians under General Wurmser had forced the strong lines of Weissembourg, and obtained a most complete victory over the French.

20th. This day, in consequence of the above victory, the British troops fired a feu-de-joie.

Our

Our troops are formed under arms an ^{oa.} hour before day break every morning, in readiness, if the enemy should make an attack.

Received orders this morning to be in readiness to march at two o'clock P. M. ^{23d.} accordingly about three, we marched back the same road we came, passing Quesnoy, and encamped in the plain near Valenciennes; it froze hard, and the cold this night was excessive severe.

At four o'clock this morning we were under arms, and again passed under the walls of Valenciennes, but were not suffered to march through the town. ^{24th.}

All hands are employed in repairing the works, and the inhabitants have begun to rebuild the desolated village of Marlis, which was burnt at the commencement of the siege on the 26th of June last.

We repassed through St. Amand, and encamped on the hill of Maulde.

About three in the morning we marched from the camp at Maulde, towards Tourney, and leaving it on our right, encamp-

Oct. ed about three miles distant, on the Or-
ches road.

26th. Halted there ; wet stormy weather.

27th. Removed, and pitched our camp near
our former ground, on the plains of Cy-
soign.

28th. About eleven o'clock, the flank batta-
lion and 3d regiment of guards, with
some squadrons of the 15th light dra-
goons, two howitzers, and four field
pieces, were ordered to march immedi-
ately, in order to attack the enemy, who
were strongly posted in the village of
Lannoy, about six miles from our camp :
about twelve o'clock we marched, and on
arriving there, the artillery advanced, cov-
ered by the infantry, and commenced a
brisk cannonade on the enemy, which
continued upwards of two hours, and
was answered by the French ; but find-
ing it too hot for them, they abandoned
the village, which General Abercrombie,
who commanded, perceiving, ordered the
light cavalry to pursue them, which they
did, with a spirit and activity peculiar to
them-

themselves ; killed about fifty, and brought back near 100 prisoners, among whom were several officers.

oa.

28th.

Captain Sutherland, of the royal military artificers, riding across an avenue, where some guns of the enemy pointed, received a mortal wound by a cannon ball in the thigh, of which he died in a few minutes after.

Captain Thornton of the royal artillery, attached to the flanked battalion, received a wound by which he lost his arm.

Lieutenant Rutherford of the artificers received a wound from the enemy, and then was cut in the head by one of our own dragoons, mistaking him for a French officer, he having a great coat over his regimentals ; two of the 3d regiment were wounded, one of which soon died ; two or three of the light cavalry were killed or wounded.

By the report of the prisoners, there were about 1600 hundred in the village when the action began.

Oct.

About one o'clock next morning we returned home to our camp.

One of the Austrian battalions of Starry supported our left flank; and though all the troops behaved with the greatest bravery, yet the artillery deserve to be particularly distinguished, for they worked their guns with amazing activity and judgment, and although not half the number, proved an overmatch for the French, who, notwithstanding, are in general good artillery-men.

29th.

Nothing extra.

30th.

This day the town of Marchiennes was surprized and taken by a party of the Austrians, and the whole of the troops that were there, taken prisoners; they consisted of about 300 cavalry, and 1200 infantry, and were brought here to head quarters.

31st.

A number of prisoners were brought in this day also from the advanced posts.

Nov.

3d.

Seldom a day passes but some prisoners are brought in from one quarter or another.

The

The weather continues to be very wet and cold, and the ground we lie upon is very soft and dirty, in consequence of which his Royal Highness has ordered an additional quantity of wood to be issued out to the men; and also a quantity of liquor, which not a little contributes to preserve the health and spirits of the troops.

At nine o'clock this morning we struck our tents once more, being the twenty-fourth and last time this campaign, and marched into Tournay, and were conducted to that extensive range of barracks, on the north side of the river, which we found much more comfortable than our late situation.

Thus our brigade ended a campaign in which we have constantly (except at Dunkirk) been crowned with success; and the failure in that one instance was most evidently neither owing to want of courage in the troops engaged in it, nor ability in our royal commander, but to a combination of events and disappoint-

Nov.

9th.

Nov. ments which it is not my province to investigate.

All the army are not restored to quarters, but are chiefly cantoned along the frontier, where they can most conveniently watch the enemy's motions.

24th. Nothing material occurred with us, until the 24th instant, when all the troops here assembled on the esplanade, and fired a feu-de-joie on the news of Fort Louis, on the Rhine, having surrendered to General Wurmser on the 14th instant. In it 4000 men, and 112 pieces of ordnance were taken, with a very large quantity of stores, &c.

Dec. 11th. Nothing worth notice has happened, except the frequent arrival of French prisoners from the out-posts.

The brigade of guards, with several regiments of heavy cavalry, are ordered to Ghent for the winter. The brigade of the line, and light cavalry, with several other corps, remain under the command of General Abercrombie, on the out-posts.

This

This morning at eight o'clock the brigade of guards, with some regiments of cavalry, marched from Tourney, and were quartered this night at a number of small villages, viz. Avelghom, Hestert, Waermaerde, &c. we were ordered to march at seven o'clock next morning.

Marched at seven o'clock, and in our route passed close by Oudenarde, and were quartered as last night at Heurne, Ouweghem, &c.

Marched at eight in the morning, and arrived at Ghent about two o'clock, P. M. and were conducted to the different barracks provided for us, viz. the Cold-stream and 3d regiment battalions to St. Peter's barracks, near St. Peter's church; the flank battalion and 1st regiment to temporary barracks, erected in a large building, formerly a nunnery, situated near the side of the Bruges canal.

The duty here is regular, and furnished by the four battalions of guards in rotation. Two battalions are under arms

Dec.
14th.

15th.

16th.

Dec.

on the grand place every morning, viz. the battalion that furnishes the guards, and the next in rotation, which falls in behind the former in readiness.

The town-major makes up the different guards, and regulates the duty; after which the field officer for the day marches off the guards, who, with the battalion in waiting, marches by divisions and open ranks past the commander-in chief, preceded by three piquets of cavalry, which relieve daily.

1794.
Jan.
18th.

This day the troops here, consisting of cavalry, infantry, and the artillery attached to them, were drawn up on the banks of the canal leading to Bruges, and fired a feu-de-joie in honour of her Majesty's birth day. The artillery fired a royal salute of twenty-four guns; the cavalry discharged their pistols, and the whole exhibited a very fine appearance.

His Royal Highness invited the officers and gentry of the town to an entertainment in the evening.

The

The frost sets in very severe, but we are supplied with plenty of fuel. There have been repeated orders given concerning the provision and regulation of batt horses for the ensuing campaign.

Jan.
24th.

Several donation articles from our friends in England have been delivered out to us, which are very acceptable at this season; such as cloth trowsers, flannel waistcoats, gloves, night-caps, socks, stockings, and two pair of shoes for each man.

29th.

In consequence of his Majesty's commands, his Royal Highness the commander in chief sets off for London.

Feb.
6th.

The command of the British troops devolves on Lieutenant-general Sir William Erskine, during the absence of his Royal Highness.

Lieutenant-general Sir William Erskine in this day's orders announced to the troops the safe arrival of his Royal Highness the Duke of York in England.

9th.

Eight squadrons of cavalry under the command of Lieutenant-colonel Stavely,

10th.

Feb. with a field officer to each four squadrons, were ordered to be ready to march at the shortest notice, and to take three days bread and forage with them.

Our brigade was also ordered to be in readiness to march at the shortest notice, and each man to be furnished with sixty rounds of ammunition.

Likewise the different battalion guns, with eight pieces of cannon in reserve.

The signal for the troops assembling was to be three guns fired from the grand parade.

During the absence of the troops under orders for marching, the main guard, and the prisoners guard were to be taken by such of the cavalry and artillery as remained behind.

All this was on account of some threatening appearance of the enemy, but as they made no farther attempt, our preparation was consequently dropt.

15th. This day a detachment from the brigade of guards, consisting of 800 men, with four twelve pounders, and two howitzers,

witzers, were ordered to march to-morrow morning at nine o'clock towards Courtray, and to put themselves under the command of General Abercrombie. The detachment had orders to take three days bread and forage with them, with their camp equipage.

The above detachment to be commanded by Colonel Drummond of the 1st guards, &c.

The detachments marched as ordered, and on the 18th arrived at Courtray, where they were lodged in the barracks.

Part of the detachment relieved the Imperial troops at the posts of Marke, Lowe, Albeck, &c. This relief consisted of about 400 men.

Our advanced posts at present reach from Menin eastward, by Hollingham, Tourcoign, Rubaix, Lannoy, to Cysoign.

The British troops in Courtray consist of the detachments from the brigade of guards, the 37th regiment of foot, two regiments of light cavalry, viz. the 7th and

Feb.

16th.

20th.

21st.

Feb. 1 and 15th, with several battalions of the foreign troops.

24th. This afternoon a body of French cavalry, to appearance about 200, advanced on our piquets stationed on the Lisle great road, but upon our patroles falling back they retired.

The French have broke up the pavement of the road leading to Lisle, and also cut the trees down and laid them across it.

The whole brigade now arrived at Courtray from Ghent, with the other troops, &c.

March. 1st. This morning about half past six o'clock, a heavy cannonade commenced towards Werwick and Lincelles, which two places the allied troops from Menin attacked and drove the French out of them. About ten o'clock the firing ceased.

2d. Nothing extra.

Our advanced posts are relieved every four days from the grand piquet at Marke,

Marke, and the whole from Courtray ^{March} every sixteen days.

Several movements took place among ^{8th.} the troops, in changing their stations, &c.

This afternoon a detachment from the brigade of guards, of 300 men, marched from Courtray, under the command of a field officer, in order to support the Hessians, should they have been attacked, they having advanced their main piquet from Marke to Lauwe. ^{8th.}

A draught from England of 750 men ^{9th.} joined the brigade of guards this day, preparatory to the ensuing campaign.

This morning a heavy firing was heard towards Lincelles and Werwick, which proved to be an attempt the enemy had made on our advanced posts, under the cover of the darkness of the morning. They obliged our posts to retire; but were repulsed afterwards with very small loss. ^{11th.}

Some firing of musketry this morning ^{12th.} at the advanced posts.

The

March.
13th. The detachment at Marke was relieved by another of the same strength from the brigade guards. Major-general Lake arrived at Courtray this day.

18th. This afternoon a French Hussar deserted to us, and brought with him his horse, arms, and accoutrements.

Every preparation is making for opening the campaign.

22d. All the heavy baggage; spare tents, and every thing not absolutely necessary for our use, was sent back to Ghent, and a serjeant of each battalion appointed to take charge of it.

Several sick men who are not able to march are also sent along with it.

26th. We began our march towards the opening of the campaign, about seven o'clock in the morning, and marched to the village of Peck, when the army halted and was quartered in the neighbouring farms and villages.

27th. Marched about six o'clock from the village of Peck, and passing through Tournay, reached St. Amand about four o'clock

o'clock in the afternoon, when the 1st March.
and 3d regiments were lodged in the con- 27th.
vent; the flank battalion of Coldstream
was quartered in the neighbouring vil-
lages, but removed into the town of St.
Amand a few days after, and quartered
there.

This ancient town has no very fine ap-
pearance in itself, although the situation
is very pleasant, on the river Scarpe,
which winds slowly through the neigh-
bouring woods and meadows, and falls
into the Scheldt near the hill of Maulde.

The church is the principal curiosity
in it, being a stately building, with a lofty
steeple of very curious architecture, but
now neglected and falling into decay, be-
ing used for a magazine for hay, corn,
&c. for the army. The convent adjoin-
ing is also a spacious building, and in
the days of its prosperity has had few
equals; but is now totally neglected.
Here the army are lodged upon all
emergencies in passing through, there
being

March, being sufficient room in the spacious
27th. apartments and galleries for one thousand
men.

How would the bigots of superstition,
in former days, have thundered forth their
anathemas against him who durst pollute
their holy place in such a manner, whilst
they, under the veil of sanctity, polluted
it far worse with their lustful abomina-
tions; with the beautiful but deluded
daughters of their country. Upon the
whole, the church and convent being
joined in one, has an appearance of awful
grandeur, and looks

"Majestic tho' in ruins."

Near the church is a small market-
place, with a fountain in the middle of
it. They have lately built a church of
brick, in a plain modern taste, the walls
of which bear the marks of the French
cannon, when they were driven out by
the General Clairfait last year. Several
of the houses in the street leading to Va-
lenciennes gate, are entirely demolished
by

by them, as they generally endeavoured to destroy what they could not possess.

March.

30th.

The soldiers of the brigade of guards, who were present in the glorious action at Lincelles, the 18th of August, 1793, received a reward for their gallantry on that occasion ; it was paid in the following proportion, viz.

	£. s. d.
A serjeant - - - - -	1 1 0
A corporal - - - - -	0 14 3
A drummer and private soldier, each - - - - -	0 9 9

His Royal Highness the commander in chief having previously ordered a board of general officers to assemble, in order to consider of and determine a compensation to be made to the officers, non-commission officers, and soldiers of the British army, for the losses sustained in the retreat from Dunkirk last year. The board having come to a determination, and his Royal Highness approved of it, the following sums were paid to those entitled to receive them, proper certi-

H - - - - - fied

March: fied returns having been previously given
 30th. in, viz.

		L.	s.	d.
Colonel	{ Baggage Camp equipage	120	0	0
		80	0	0
Field Officer	{ Baggage Camp equipage	10	0	0
		60	0	0
Captain	{ Baggage Camp equipage	80	0	0
		35	0	0
Subaltern	{ Baggage Camp equipage			
Quart. Master	{ Baggage Camp equipage	27	10	0

The above is the allowance made for the whole, and so in proportion for any part of it.

A serjeant of infantry for the whole of his necessaries

For three-quarters ditto	2	10	0
and so on in proportion.	1	17	6

A private soldier, whole	2	2	0
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For three-quarters	1	11	6
------------------------------	---	----	---

For one-half	1	1	0
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For one-fourth	0	10	6
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The serjeants and privates of the cavalry were allowed a trifle more than the infantry; and an officer's servant, for the whole of his necessaries, £.3, and so in proportion for any part of it.

There are also new tents of a round form, and superior quality to the old ones,

ones, each tent is to contain sixteen men ; also new kettles, two to each tent, with a horse per company to carry them, which is a great convenience to the soldiers, nothing being more irksome on a long march than carrying a kettle.

A general court martial sat here on a soldier of the 24th regiment of foot, accused of murdering an inhabitant of the country, a man dwelling at a small distance from here, on the banks of the Scarpe. But though there was no reason to doubt his being guilty, the court could not find themselves justified in condemning him to suffer death ; but sentenced him a thousand lashes.

In this instance, as well as many others of late, justice loudly calls for some singular example ; for notwithstanding repeated orders, and severe threatenings, time after time, pillaging, and lawless depredations are still practised in some part of the army or other.

April.

April.

His Royal Highness informed the army of the above affair in the following manner in public orders :

Head Quarters, St. Amand, 31st March, 1794.

Parole Stanislaus.

" IT is with the utmost concern that the commander in chief announces to the army, that he has received a report that three British soldiers, dressed in great coats, and with leather caps on, similar to those worn by the light infantry, went yesterday into a house, in the village of Warlem, which they plundered, and on the owner remonstrating with them, and saying he would complain to the General, one of the men drew a pistol and shot him; the man died of his wounds this morning.

" His Royal Highness is convinced, that it is not necessary for him to make any observation on a conduct so atrocious and disgraceful, to induce all persons under his command to use their utmost efforts to detect and bring to punishment the

the perpetrators of this act: he, however, thinks proper to promise a reward of thirty guineas to any person who can give such information as will lead to a discovery; and if it is a soldier who gives such information, he will receive his discharge should he require it.

“ His Royal Highness is pleased further to offer the same terms, together with a free pardon to either of the men concerned, who will turn King’s evidence, and prosecute to conviction; with an exception only to the actual perpetrator of the murder.”

These orders to be read at the head of every troop and company, at roll-call, two successive days.

Each man was also furnished by the Duke’s recommendation, at the expense of our friends in England, with a great coat of strong grey cloth, made after the Austrian fashion, which proves of infinite service to us, both on duty and off.

April.
9th.

This day a general movement took place in the army, which took up cantonments at Famars, and the villages and places adjacent.

The brigade of guards marched to St. Leger, a straggling village on the river Scheldt, above Valenciennes, where we took up quarters for this night.

10th.

Passed the Scheldt at Frith, with a number of other corps, and marched to Vendegies sur l'Ecaillon, a remarkable dirty straggling village, where we remained cantoned till every thing was prepared and ready for the field.

Yesterday two soldiers of the 14th regiment of foot, following up their usual practice of plundering the poor inhabitants, entered a house, and on the people attempting to make some resistance in defence of their little all, the villains, with unfeeling barbarity, murdered the mother, and wounded her infant in such a manner that it died soon after.

The

The following is his Royal Highness's address to the army upon the occasion : April.
10th.

Famars, April 10th, 1794.

Parole Bernardine.

“ HIS Royal Highness the commander in chief earnestly requests, that the general and field officers, captains, and officers commanding companies, will take pains to explain to the men of the army under their command, the following order, addressed in a particular manner to the private men of the army : ”

“ HIS Royal Highness feels it to be unnecessary that he should seek for any other than the plainest and most direct language, to convey to them the sentiments under the impression of which it was dictated.

“ His Royal Highness therefore announces his full determination, to exert every effort of severity and rigour, to put a stop to the scenes of plunder and outrage, of which so many instances have

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10th.

lately occurred, to the dishonour of the British army.

" Major-general Abercrombie reported yesterday to his Royal Highness, that two men of the 14th regiment had, during the preceding evening, attempted to rob the house of a countryman, that in the course of the attempt, they had murdered the woman of the house, and that a child had also been so much wounded, that there was little hopes of its living.

" His Royal Highness leaves it to those amongst the class of his brother soldiers, whom he now addresses, and in whose minds there exist those principles of honour and integrity, which can alone render them worthy the appeal, and which he trusts and believes is by far the greater number of them, to judge of the feelings which must have forced themselves upon his mind, at receiving a report of an act so atrocious and inhuman in its nature, and so well calculated to cast the most injurious stigma on the national character in general, and that of

the army under his immediate command
in particular.

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" His Royal Highness is persuaded, that there can be but one sentiment of detestation and horror upon the occasion, and he relies so much upon this conviction, that he forbears, as unnecessary, to make any further observations upon it.

" His Royal Highness feels himself called upon, by every tie of justice, humanity, and duty, to punish, by a single act of severity, the perpetrators of so horrid a fact. Under this impression he did not hesitate a moment to order the Provost to proceed to the spot, and by the instant execution of the offenders, to make atonement to the violated laws of God and man, and endeavour by that terror, which he is convinced can alone have any effect upon minds lost to every feeling of religion, humanity, and honour, to put a stop to a conduct, of which too many instances have of late occurred, to leave his Royal Highness any doubt of the necessity

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necessity of an immediate and rigorous interference.

[The two men were executed this morning at the head of the brigade.]

" His Royal Highness trusts the army will do him the justice to believe, that it was not without the utmost regret and concern, that he thus gave way to the necessity which urged him to doom two of his fellow creatures to so awful a fate, which they indeed too well merited. It was the future advantage of the army, and the hope that such an act of severity would render a repetition of it unnecessary, which alone actuated his Royal Highness to depart from the ordinary proceedings of justice. He most earnestly and ardently prays, that it may have the effect which he had in view.

" At the same time he repeats his full determination to persist in the exercise of the most rigorous means in the discharge of the duty which he owes to God, to his King, and to his Country, and to the brave and good of the army which it

will

will be his pride to command, only while by its conduct it may merit the general approbation of our country, as much as he is sure it will at all times by its courage."

April.

This is in general an open country, pleasantly variegated with hills and vallies, but not in a very good state of cultivation. Both beef and mutton are very plenty, and reasonable.

His Imperial Majesty having signified his intention of reviewing all the troops composing the army on the heights above Cateau, the 16th instant, those under the immediate command of his Royal Highness the Duke of York are ordered to assemble on the heights above Bormerain at nine o'clock that morning. The several brigades, with the reserve artillery, to march in several columns from their present quarters. The officers commanding are desired to examine the roads to-morrow, and ascertain the distance, as they are desired to compass their march, so

as

as

April. as to arrive at Bormerain precisely at the hour appointed.

Further directions will be given at Bormerain, for forming the columns of march from thence to Cateau.

Here some of our battalions were furnished with straps, for the purpose of carrying our great coats, slung across the shoulders, neatly rolled up. This, in all sorts of weather, was part of our equipment.

16th. According to the orders of the 14th, the several corps of the army under the command of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, assembled at 9 o'clock in the morning on the heights of Bormerain; and from thence proceeded in several columns to the heights of Cateau, where we found the Emperor's troops already assembled. It was a fine day, and the sun shone clear, which contributed much to the good appearance of the troops; there was line after line, and column after column, extended over all the heights.

About

About six o'clock the Emperor attended with a long retinue, rode briskly along the lines, but had not time to take notice of every distinct corps.

April.

After he had passed our brigade, we moved forward, crossing the Cambray high road, within a mile of Cateau ; it being now dark, we could see the latter town finely illuminated, on account of the Emperor and the Duke of York lodging there. We soon reached our appointed place, and pitched our tents for the first time this campaign in some fields of wheat. We had been previously ordered to have two days provisions ready cooked with us, which saved us the trouble now of dressing it.

About eight o'clock this morning the whole combined army was in motion, and a glorious sight it was to see, the vast extended columns of cavalry, infantry, and artillery, moving in different directions, according to the plan of attack.

17th.

The

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17th.

The Emperor and his army turned off to the left, towards Landrecy; where they soon drove in the out-posts, and laid siege to it. While we were on the march, we could see a good deal of cannonading on our left towards the Sambre, above Landrecy.

But now came our turn to exhibit; our principal attack was intended against a village called Vaux, near which place the enemy had strengthened themselves considerably, and thrown up a redoubt around a windmill, in which they had five pieces of cannon, with either one or two mortars. This post had an exceeding fine command, and as soon as the head of our column advanced within shot, they began a heavy cannonade; but it is to be observed, that in this part of the country are many hollow ways, resembling the bed of a river dried up, which run with irregular windings through all the open country. In one of these hollow ways, directly in front of their battery, but at a considerable distance,

our

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17th.

our brigade formed the line of battle, and halted, while several pieces of cannon were detached round to the right near the edge of a wood, and brought to bear on the enemy with good effect. The French finding where we were drawn up, kept firing with the utmost vigour, but without effect, as we were under cover, except two spent balls, which sloping down the bank, went directly through the ranks, killed two men, broke the colour staff of the 3d regiment in the ensign's hand, and wounded five more.

The hollow way where we stood took its course round to the left a considerable way, and came up to the village of Vaux, which lay behind the battery. We now marched round this way, following two grenadier companies of the 1st regiment, and the corps of O'Donnell, which had been led up towards the village, with an intent to storm the redoubt, but before we could reach it, the French had made good their retreat; and had also got their guns clear off, except one.

April
17th.

six pounder, which we suppose they had not horses to take away, as two lay dead in the redoubt, with a number of both killed and wounded men.

As they retreated, they were pursued through the wood of Leisse towards Bohain, by some Hessian light cavalry, who killed a great number.

They had the precaution to defend the wood, which lay on our right as we advanced to Vaux, both with cavalry and infantry, and also by felling trees across every pass, otherwise their retreat to Bohain must have been cut off.

After gaining possession of the redoubt, the 3d regiment and Coldstream remained there, and the flank battalion and 1st regiment marched about two miles, where they halted as an advanced piquet towards Bohain. The night was very wet and cold, and we had no tents, as our baggage did not come up.

Some of the Austrian troops set most part of the village of Vaux on fire, which burnt almost all night. The Duke who had

had taken up his quarters there, was April.
forced to leave them on account of the
fire.

How wonderfully are some men's hearts hardened, and proof against every emotion of pity or humanity ! Such are those who with wanton cruelty destroy in an hour what a poor inoffensive industrious family has toiled hard for years to obtain ; and when they see the screaming terrified children, hanging round their distressed mother, now left without a home, a prey to hunger, nakedness, and perhaps death, instead of moving their pity, it only provokes their scorn and abuse.

The whole of the Duke's column 18th:
marched this morning (except the advanced guard, viz. the flank and 1st battalion of the guards, and the Inniskilling dragoons) and encamped on the heights between Basuiou and Catillon, a few miles south-east of Cateau.

The other two battalions of guards, with the Inniskilling, &c. advanced in the I morning

April.
18th.

morning through the wood of Leiffe, and formed a line close against the town of Bohain, while a reconnoitering party went in, but the French troops were all got clear off. The party was informed that the enemy fled with such precipitation, that they left their baggage, &c. in the town, but finding they were not pursued, returned back about midnight and took it away.

We then returned back again to Vaux, where we remained all night.

One part of the forest through which we passed and repassed this morning, was strewed thick with dead bodies, killed in the pursuit of the cavalry yesterday, the greatest part of them had been killed with the sword, and were much mangled and cut in different places.

One of the above corpses drew the attention of a great number of people, on account of the beauty and whiteness of its skin; it lay in a plowed field, was stripped naked, except the shirt, and appeared to have been a youth of about eighteen

eighteen or nineteen years of age, of the most exact proportion of shape and size; a skin perfectly clear and white, without the smallest spot or blemish, except where he had been wounded; he had received a shot in the groin, and a cut through his left eye, very deep.

April.

The two battalions at Vaux being relieved by Major-general Abercrombie's corps, marched by a wide circuitous route to the place where the rest of the brigade were encamped; but not halting there, continued our route through Cateau, about two miles along the Cambray road, that being the position designed for our army to take, in order to cover the siege of Landrecy, and also to watch the motions of the enemy near Cambray.

19th.

The two battalions encamped near Cattillon, with the rest of the troops there, joined us, and took up their new encampment.

April.
20th. His Royal Highness addressed the
troops on the action of the 17th.

Head Quarters, Cateau, April 19, 1794.

" HIS Royal Highness the Duke of York takes the earliest opportunity of testifying the sense he entertains of the bravery and conduct of the troops which composed the two columns under his immediate command in the very extensive operations of the 17th instant; his personal observation of the spirit and steadiness with which the officers and men of the column which attacked the enemy's entrenchments on the heights above Vaux, and in the wood of Bohain, supported a very severe cannonade; and the report made to him by Sir William Erskine that the same qualities were equally displayed by his column at the attack of the enemy's works at Premont, calls upon him to express to them his warmest approbation.

" The companies of O'Donald, which led the attack of the redoubt; the two
com-

companies of grenadiers of the 1st regiment of British guards which supported that attack ; the three battalions of Austrian grenadiers commanded by Major-general Petrash, who forced the enemy in the wood ; and the hussars of Arch Duke Ferdinand, with a squadron of the 16th light dragoons, under Major Lapport, who turned their right ; as well as those who under their brave leader, Colonel Davey, so gallantly pursued on the left, are all entitled to his best acknowledgments ; as are in an equal manner the three battalions of the regiment of Kaunitz, who, by the report of Sir William Erskine, attacked the works of the enemy at Premont with the intrepidity which at all times distinguishes the Austrian troops.

April.
20th.

" His Royal Highness desires in a particular manner to offer his best thanks to Lieutenant-generals Sir William Erskine and Otto, for the judgment and good conduct which they so conspicuously displayed in the discharge of their respective duties,

April
20th,

"To Major-general Abercrombie, for the zeal, activity, and spirit with which he led the advyced guard of his column; and to Lieutenant-colonel Count Murfield, of the Etat-major, for the very great and active assistance which his Royal Highness deriyed from his abilities.

"His Royal Highness desires that Captain Boag and Lieutenant Page of the royal artillery will accept his thanks for the very spirited and able manner with which they conducted the battery intrusted to their care."

The following order was issiued the same day, by order of his Imperial Ma-jesty and the Duke of York :

" ALL persons are forbid, upon pain of death, the pillaging or burning of houses or villages, as by those means we lose all the necessaries and comforts of them."

The following order issued the same day, shews the care and attention of our royal commander towards the lives and property of individuals :

April.

" BY order of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, an officer and forty men of the guards to be immediately sent to Basuyaux, to enforce the order for preventing pillaging and burning houses, and the officer is to inform General Otto of his arrival there."

A working party, consisting of three subalterns, four serjeants, four corporals, and 300 men, was furnished by our brigade this day, for the purpose of throwing up redoubts and strengthening our position.

21st.

The working parties continued ; they are generally relieved twice in twenty-four hours, and work as long as they can see ; they are paid at the rate of four-pence per diem.

22d.

April.
23d.

A heavy cannonading heard from Landrecy; which the Emperor's troops are bombarding with the utmost vigour. Our forage, wood, &c. is brought here from Englefontaine.

The British troops are here :

CAVALRY.

Major-general Sir R. Lawrie's brigade,
Colonel Vyse's do.
Major-general Mansell's do.
Major-general Dundas's do.
Seventh light dragoons,
First do.
Fifteenth do.
Sixteenth do.

INFANTRY.

Brigade of guards,
First brigade of the line,
Second brigade of the line,
Besides artillery.

And the Austrians, Hessians, &c. consisting of artillery, cavalry, and infantry, composed above as many more.

This

April.
24th.

This morning about four o'clock a column of the enemy, consisting of both cavalry and infantry, was discovered towards our right flank. That quarter being commanded by the Austrian General Otto, a gallant officer, our 15th light dragoons, and some Austrian hussars were ordered to charge them, which they did with such spirit and gallantry, that the French soon gave way, while our valiant dragoons pursued the flying foe near four miles, with great slaughter. Prisoners they took but few, as they employed their time to a better purpose, namely, following up, and completing their victory.

The 15th light dragoons, and the hussars of Tuscany, were supported by two or three squadrons from the 1st dragoon guards, the blues, and Prince of Wales's; their loss was very small, the 15th and Prince of Wales's dragoons suffered most. The enemy lost above two hundred killed and wounded in the field, with nine pieces of cannon.

The

April.

The engagement lasted about eight hours. In the afternoon three battalions of the guards marched to the place which they had occupied, and remained there a few hours until all was quiet, and then returned to camp.

25th.

The siege of Landrecy is carrying on with the greatest activity; we hear a constant cannonade, and at night can see the shells frequently.

Three squadrons of cavalry and three battalions of infantry are in constant readiness night and day, to turn out in a moment: this duty is taken by rotation throughout the army. The whole line is also ready every morning at day-break.

26th.

The enemy, determined to make another effort in order to raise the siege of Landrecy, advanced this morning towards our encampment in five columns, drove in our out-posts, piquets, &c. and at six o'clock the heads of some of their columns were within cannon shot of our camp. The infantry were drawn up in front of their respective encampments, and

and the quarter guard tents struck, but no others were suffered to be touched, nor the least appearance of confusion. Several pieces of cannon were drawn forward just clear of the encampment, and a brisk cannonade began, which a little retarded their progress. Their left column, which it seems was the strongest, approached with great confidence, and we could observe the squadrons of cavalry and divisions of infantry advancing over a rising ground at a small distance with great rapidity.

April.

26th.

And now every expectation was on the rack, awaiting some command that might determine an event that appeared so big with sudden fate.

At length the Duke, who from No. 1 redoubt (it being the highest) was watching all their proceedings, observed, that their left flank was not covered, on which he immediately ordered the following regiments of cavalry to advance and turn that flank, namely, the Austrian regiment of cuirassiers, Zetzwichtz, the blues,

April.
26th.

blues, 1st, 3d, and 5th dragoon guards; the royals, Arch Duke Ferdinand's hussars, and the 16th light dragoons.

These accordingly advanced with cool deliberate valour, and turning the enemy's flank, amidst showers of grape shot and musketry, charged through their squadrons and battalions, backward and forward, bearing all down before them with irresistible force. We could observe from the camp several of our squadrons charging through the French cavalry, then through a battalion of infantry, after which they would wheel round, and charge back again in the same manner, so that it was impossible for the enemy to rally or collect their terrified troops.

The 7th and 11th light dragoons in the mean time were performing prodigies of valour on the left, while our artillery advanced in front, and added to the general confusion of the French.

The overthrow now became universal, cavalry and infantry were thrown together in promiscuous heaps, or scattered in

in astonishment over the plains. The cavalry that were left now took to their heels and fled, pursued with terror to the very gates of Cambray before they durst look behind. The infantry following their example, to facilitate their flight, threw away their knapsacks, arms, and accoutrements, and made the best of their way, leaving our brave dragoons absolute masters of the field.

April.
26th.

But they did not all run away who came that morning, the fields were covered with the slain, and in some places they lay in heaps, with a considerable number of our gallant heroes among them. We also took near 3000 prisoners, and about fifty pieces of cannon, with the general who commanded them, General Chapuy.

We had the misfortune to lose Major-general Mansel, he was killed at the first onset.

April.

In consequence of the above victory, the following order was issued this evening :

Pass Orders, 26th April, 1795.

" IN consequence of orders received from his Imperial Majesty, his Royal Highness the commander in chief orders the troops to be under arms at the head of their respective encampments to-morrow morning at half past seven o'clock, to fire a feu-de-joie. The firing begins with the British reserve artillery, follows the Austrian artillery, and then the line from the right.

" The men to be provided with three blank cartridges for the purpose."

27th.

The siege of Landrecy is carried on with great activity, though the besieged continue to make a vigorous defence.

The

The following is his Royal Highness's address to the army:

April.
28th.

Head Quarters, Cateau, 28th April, 1794.

" HIS Royal Highness the commander in chief has the highest satisfaction in congratulating the army on the glorious success of the 26th instant, in which the enemy, using every effort in a general attack, conducted in five columns for the relief of Landrecy, were repulsed in all of them, with a very great slaughter, and the loss of near fifty pieces of cannon.

" The army under the immediate command of his Royal Highness bore a very conspicuous share in the signal success of the day; and his Royal Highness feels it incumbent on him to make his acknowledgments to those brave officers and soldiers, to whose valour and conduct, under the Divine direction, this great and important victory is to be ascribed.

" To Lieutenant-general Otto, and to Colonel the Prince of Swantzenbourg, to whose

April.
28th.

whose lot it fell to conduct the principal operations of the day, his Royal Highness desires to offer his best thanks, as well as to Colonel Vyse, who, on the misfortune of General Mansel, took the command of, and so gallantly led to the charge, two brigades of British cavalry.

" His Royal Highness farther desires, that Major Brigade Payne and Captain Beckworth may know, that their conduct has been particularly mentioned to him by Prince Swantzenbourg, as highly meritorious.

" The Austrian regiment of cuirassiers, Zetzwichtz, the blues, 1st, 3d, and 5th dragoon guards, the royals, Arch Duke Ferdinand's hussars, and the 16th light dragoons, who attacked and defeated the principal column of the enemy on the right, have all acquired immortal honour to themselves.

" Nor is the determined gallantry with which, regardless of their number, the 7th and 11th light dragoons attacked
the

the enemy on the left, less worthy of
every commendation.

April.
28th.

" His Royal Highness requests, that the officers and men of those brave corps will accept of his thanks, and he desires they will be assured that he has not failed to represent their merits in the strongest terms to their respective sovereigns.

" His Royal Highness is extremely desirous, that in the admiration excited by the success of the 26th, the less brilliant, though not less meritorious services of the light troops under General Otto, on the 24th instant, may not be overlooked.

" On that occasion, the conduct of the hussars, and 15th light dragoons, is particularly noticed on the report of Lieutenant-general Otto.

" His Royal Highness has at all times had the highest confidence in the courage of the British troops in general, and he trusts that the cavalry will now be convinced, that wherever they attack with the firmness, velocity, and order which

K

they

April.

they shewed upon this occasion, no numbers of the enemy we have to deal with, can resist them."

The late Major-general Mansel was buried at six o'clock this evening, in the redoubt No. 1. The corpse was preceded by three squadrons of his late brigade, and two pieces of cannon. The latter fired thirteen guns, at minute intervals, immediately after the interment. Major-generals Abercrombie, Lake, Dundas, White, Fox, and Colonel D'Oyly, attended as pall-bearers, with the Duke and a great number of other officers.

29th.

This day the garrison of Landrecy surrendered to the Imperial army after a siege of nine days. The troops are to march out to-morrow morning without their arms, officers excepted, who are allowed to wear swords.

30th.

The enemy pressing hard upon General Clairfait, who commanded in West Flanders, it was deemed necessary to send some part of the army to his assistance; accord-

accordingly orders were issued this afternoon for the whole of the troops to be in readiness to march this evening at nine o'clock, in consequence of which the tents were struck, the baggage loaded, and every thing ready for marching at the hour appointed. Our route was for the camp at Famars, but we did not move off our ground before eleven o'clock, when we proceeded in the following order, viz.

April.
30th.

Two squadrons 15th light dragoons.
Six squadrons of the brigade, late Gen. Mansel's.

Four battalions British guards.

Two battalions Winsel Coloredo.

Three battalions Austrian grenadiers.

Six squadrons Colonel Vyse's brigade.

The remainder of the troops on the advanced posts marched by another route to the same place, under the command of General Otto.

About noon we arrived at Famars, where we were ordered to halt for the space of four hours to refresh the troops,

May.
1st.

May.
1st.

who were much fatigued with their night's march.

During our halt here, a heavy storm of rain fell, accompanied with thunder and lightning.

At four o'clock we again resumed our march, and passed the Scheldt at Frith, through St. Leger, and from thence to the high road that leads from Valenciennes to St. Amand, which place it was intended we should reach that night; but the evening coming on, with a continued heavy rain, accompanied at short intervals with dreadful flashes of lightning, it became so excessive dark, that no one could perceive whether that next him was a man, a horse, or a waggon, of course every thing ran foul of each other; men and horses fell in the ditches together, and the drivers of the guns were forced to grope the way before their horses.

In this situation, our brigade reached a straggling village, on the road between Valenciennes and the Abby de Vicoigne, where

where every one shifted for himself, and got under cover for the remainder of the night. General Lake and his horse both fell into a dangerous hole, the horse got out safe, but the General was much bruised.

The brigade of guards marched into St. Amand this morning, and was ordered to their former lodging and quarters. 2d.

Orders of this Day.

"THE commander in chief desires, that the officers commanding brigades will have distributed to their men a full allowance of rum for this day, which his Royal Highness will pay for."

Marched about seven o'clock this morning, and at six o'clock in the evening arrived at our destined post, near Marquain, on the west of Tournay, much fatigued with these long marches. 3d.

The advanced posts are placed as formerly under the command of Lieutenant-general Otto, and consist of six squadrons 4th.

May.

drons of cavalry, supported by three battalions of infantry, which are relieved daily.

The following allowance of wood was ordered to be made to general officers, their suite, and officers of the staff:

Lieutenant-generals and suite 30 rations of 12 pounds each for four days.

Major-generals and suite, 20 do. do.

Colonels, 15 do. do.

Field officers, 10 do. do.

Captains, 7 do. do.

Subalterns, 4 do. do.

Major-generals if in camp are allowed a proportion equal to that for 30 men.

Colonels and field officers for 20 do.

Captains, subalterns, and staff officers for 10 do.

10th. About three o'clock this morning the enemy attacked our advanced posts, drove them in, and approached our encampment with great rapidity; we were immediately ordered under arms, and our tents struck, by that means if possible to draw

draw them into a general engagement, May.
but our cavalry drove them back again,
killed a great number, and took many
prisoners.

In this day's orders the Duke returned 11th.
thanks to the corps engaged yesterday in
the following manner :

" HIS Royal Highness the coman-
der in chief desires that Lieutenant-gene-
ral Harcourt, Major-general Dundas, and
Sir Robert Laurie, with the officers and
men of the several corps of cavalry
which were engaged yesterday, will ac-
cept his best thanks for the further proof
which they gave of that spirit and con-
duct which his Royal Highness is well
assured will ever be attended with the suc-
cess it so well merits."

Extract from the orders of this day : 12th,

Head Quarters, Tournay, 12th May, 1794.

Parole Albertus.

" ALL pieces of ordnance, colours,
tumbrils; and horses taken from the en-

May.

my, are to be delivered to the British artillery, and receipts taken for the same; which receipts, accompanied by a written application from the officer commanding the regiment who took them, are within three days to be sent to Mr. Commissary Williamson, who, by order of his Royal Highness the commander in chief, will pay the following rewards, viz.

	£.
For each cannon or howitzer,	20
For each pair of colours,	10
For each tumbril,	10
For each horse,	12"

14th.

Every gun and waggon of the park of artillery, &c. were ordered to be provided with two fascines, being designed for the purpose of occasionally filling up, and repairing of bad passes on the road.

16th.

The army was ordered to cook two days provision, by which we knew some expedition was intended, which was no less than a general attack to be made by our

our whole army on the enemy, in the
following order.

May.

16th.

The army was divided into five columns, the two on the left were to force the passages of the river Marque, at Pont à Tressin, Willem, &c. and check the enemy at Lille. The center column, which was composed of the brigade of guards, 1st brigade of the line, the free corps of O'Donnel, some of the British light cavalry, artillery, &c. was to force the enemy's post at Lannoy, and then proceed to Roubaix, &c. The next which was commanded by General Otto, was to proceed through Lurs, Waterloos, &c. to Tourcoing. The column on the right was to proceed through several intermediate places to Mouscron; and by this disposition it was intended to cut off the communication of the enemy's main army from Lille.

Every thing being ready, the tents were struck about nine o'clock this evening, and with the heavy baggage sent off to a place behind Tournay.

About

May.

About eleven o'clock the army was in motion. Our column was commanded by Major-general Abercrombie, but the Duke accompanied it; as being the center of the army, it was the most convenient place for him to receive information, or give orders.

17th.

The morning being very hazy, we halted near the village of Templeuve, till about nine o'clock, when we moved forwards towards Lannoy; which, after a brisk cannonade for a short time, the enemy abandoned.

In this attack Major Wright of the royal artillery was mortally wounded, and died soon after. This is a remarkably fatal place for the officers of our artillery, one being killed and two wounded here last year.

We then after a short halt proceeded towards Roubaix; a company of light infantry under the command of Lieutenant-colonel Perryn, scouring the left flank all the way. The enemy made a stout opposition at Roubaix, and after their

their out-posts were drove in, answered our cannon for some time with great spirit, and then retreated, getting clear off with all their guns. We then entered the town in triumph after a little difficulty, they having cut down a number of trees across the road near the entrance. Many of the inhabitants were fled, and left their houses shut up, and those who remained, eyed us with a kind of vacant look, hardly knowing whether to esteem us as friends or foes.

May.

17th.

The brigade of the line was posted on the chaussée leading from Roubaix to Lisle, to prevent a surprise from that quarter; and the brigade of guards were drawn up in the field on the west side of the town; there they refreshed themselves with what they had with them, and were also supplied plentifully with several articles from the town.

Roubaix is a handsome town, laying with a gentle declivity towards the south, on which side runs a small rivulet, winding through the meadows. In the market-place

May.
17th.

place was erected the tree of liberty, impaled round with the red cap on the top of it, which our men soon levelled with the ground.

About sun-set General Abercrombie received orders to attack Mouvaux, a village two miles distant, strongly situated by nature, and surrounded with pali-sadoes and entrenchments, together with several flanking redoubts.

We accordingly advanced to the attack with great vigour and alacrity, from the refreshment we had received at Roubaix, and after some time spent in cannonading, the flank battalion which had been in front all day, having formed the line, and advancing towards the enemy, eagerly catched the word "charge," and rushed with the utmost impetuosity into the enemy's works, upon which they fled with the greatest precipitation, leaving behind them three pieces of cannon. In the mean time the light cavalry wheeling round the village, overtook them in their flight;

flight, and pursued them about three miles with great slaughter.

May.
17th.

After taking possession of the village, piquets were sent out wherever they were deemed necessary, and the remainder betook themselves to rest, highly pleased with the glorious success of the day.

It is a happy thing for us mortals that we cannot see into futurity, otherwise we would certainly overlook all our blessings and enjoyments, and fix all our thoughts with fearful expectation on the approach of each calamity.

If we had known, however, what our next day's work was to be, we should not at least have slept so sound that night.

It happened unfortunately that our column was the only one that was successful in the general attack of yesterday. The two columns on our left were either repulsed at the Marque, or so matched, that they could advance no farther, consequently our left flank was left open to the numberless legions that poured out from Lisle.

The

May.

18th

The column on the right was defeated, and forced to fall back again.

General Otto's column on our right gained its point, and took possession of Tourcoign, but could not keep it, being driven out again and forced to retreat, so that we were left exposed on all sides.

The morning was ushered in by a tremendous cannonade in the woods near Tourcoign, on our right, where the Austrians were forced to fall back; then towards Roubaix; behind us, where our brigade of the line were forced to give way; then on our left, where our piquets were drove in; and before us, multitudes of both cavalry and infantry appeared, advancing in all directions.

It was now about nine o'clock, and our brave general being apprized of our real situation, with respect to the other parts of the army, and having no prospect of any assistance being sent him, ordered us to retreat.

Accordingly we marched back towards Roubaix, with the artillery and

May.
18th.

the main body of the brigade, while the skirmishing parties all around us made it appear like a kind of running fight. On coming near the town, we found the enemy assembled in great numbers in the wood to the right of the town, from whence they would have annoyed us greatly on our entrance; we therefore made a halt, and with four twelve pounders being drawn up, gave them such a salute as made them sheer off. We then proceeded through the town, which the front of the column cleared very well; but before the rear got clear of the gate, the enemy pressed very hard upon them, both with grape shot and musketry, and killed and wounded a great many.

On gaining the summit of the hill, after passing the town, a short halt was made, in order to collect the troops more close together, or see if any thing could be done; but the enemy pressing in on all sides, in such superior numbers, it was thought vain to attempt any thing offensive; we therefore moved on again, in hopes

May. hopes of reaching Lannoy; amidst volleys
18th. of round and grape shot from all quarters.
At every avenue, or pass, they had guns
to flank us, and their cavalry were ready
whenever the ground would admit them
to act.

Thus we went, beset on all sides, for
upwards of three miles. Immediately
after our last formation, a squadron or two
of some foreign hussars, instead of en-
deavouring to check the enemy, rode away
at full speed, even through the midst of
our own men, if they chanced to be in
their way, and added confusion to confu-
sion. The most part of our officers batt
horses and others were so frightened at
the shot, that they became quite unma-
nageable, and throwing off their loads,
ran with the utmost fury up and down,
among the soldiers.

The women also, who inadvertently
had been permitted to follow us, caused
no small disorder; some being killed,
others wounded, and some loaded with
plunder

plunder, so as to be unable to keep up
with the men.

May,
18th.

It was now discovered that Lannoy
was in possession of the enemy, and our
flank battalion guns being advanced too
far in front, without a proper support, a
strong detachment of cavalry from Lan-
noy met and took them, with all the men,
except one, prisoners.

We were now forced to leave the road,
and make our way through the fields be-
tween Lannoy and Leers : this was ano-
ther occasion of our losing some more of
our guns and tumbrils, not being able to
get them over the hedges and ditches
through which we passed.

In the mean time our British light ca-
valry which were with us performed won-
ders of valour, charging the enemy with
unexampled courage, wherever they ap-
proached : it was no uncommon thing to
see one of them attack three of the
French dragoons at once, in order to res-
cue the prisoners they were carrying off.

L

It

May.
18th.

It was owing to their bravery that so few prisoners were taken, as well as the great numbers which they retook from the enemy.

As soon as we reached the village of Templeuve, we halted and formed; and from thence marched to our former position behind the village of Blandin, with very different sensations from what we had the evening before.

Our loss proved to be very inconsiderable to what might have been expected in such a situation; for it was rather to be wondered at that one of us escaped.

The flank battalions in the several attacks of the 17th instant, had 7 rank and file killed; 2 officers, viz. Colonel Manners, and Colonel Ludlow, and 33 rank and file wounded.

The brigade of the line under the command of Major-general Fox suffered very severely.

The 3d regiment of guards also lost one of their colours, not taken by the

enemy, but through the careless misconduct of a serjeant.

May.

Return of the Killed, Wounded, and Missing of the Brigade of Foot Guards on the 17th and 18th of May, 1794.

Battalions.	Capt.	Lieu.	Serj.	Dru.	R.and F.		
	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.	Killed.	Wounded.	Missing.
Flank Batt.	.	2	.	1	.	1	.
1st Regiment	6 8 6
Coldstream	.	1	5 3
3d Regiment.	1	.	2 9 14
Total	.	3	.	1	.	2	.
					1	20 73	36

Flank Battalion. { Colonel Manners,
Coldstream, Lieut. Col. Ludlow,
1st Regiment. Capt. Drummond,
 Lieut. Col. Gascoyne,
 Mr. Robinson, Surg. taken Prisoner. } Wounded.

Towards the evening we changed the position of our encampment, the British heavy cavalry and infantry taking their ground on the left of the line. 19th.

May.
19th.

Head Quarters, Tournay, 19th May, 1794.

Parole Martinus.

" IN noticing the event of yesterday, his Royal Highness the commander in chief finds little to regret but the loss of brave men, which, however, appears to be less, than from the nature of the action might have been expected.

" The proximity of the enemy's garrisons and armies; the want of that complete success in the other parts of the intended operations, which would have secured the flanks of our position, and above all the nature of the country, so favourable to the kind of attack which the enemy undertook. These will sufficiently account for what has happened, without any imputation on the conduct and bravery of our troops; with them his Royal Highness has every reason to be perfectly satisfied, and he doubts not, but the enemy will feel to their cost, upon the first occasion which may present itself, to what they owe the advantage they have

had the good fortune to obtain yesterday, over troops as much superior to them in bravery and discipline, as is the cause we maintain to that for which they contend.

May,
19th.

" In fact, the enemy has little to boast of but the acquisition of some pieces of British artillery; which being the first that has fallen into their hands in the field, may afford matter of triumph; and though his Royal Highness regrets that they should have that to boast of, yet he is perfectly satisfied; that it is to be attributed to the difficulty of the country alone, and not to the smallest failure in the courage and conduct which was exerted to save them.

" The corps to give in returns of their loss immediately, and his Royal Highness relies on the zeal and activity of the commanding officers, for repairing every thing that will admit of it, with the utmost dispatch, so that they may want nothing essential for future service that can be procured them."

May.
21st.

A detachment of two hundred grenadiers of the brigade of guards, with one captain, and four subalterns, attended the funeral of the late Major Wright, of the royal artillery, who died of the wounds he received on the 17th instant.

22d.

This day the enemy having previously collected all their force, made a vigorous and general attack on our lines, in several columns; their greatest efforts were made on our right, near the river Scheldt, which also covered their left flank; they maintained their ground in that quarter with uncommon resolution, and with very little variation the whole day; having this particular advantage, that they were able from their vast numbers to pour in continual supplies of fresh troops to action; and also from the nature of the country and their situation, could change them with very little inconveniency.

A numerous column approached our lines, near the center, through the villages of Templeuve and Blandin, but a redoubt

redoubt having been thrown up near the road by which alone they could approach, and some other pieces of ordnance being placed a little to the left, in an advantageous situation, they were suffered to advance pretty near unmolested, when the whole opened upon them with such effect, that they were forced to retreat in the utmost confusion, and with very great loss. Notwithstanding which they made two more spirited attempts to force that passage, but were repulsed with equal loss and confusion.

May.
22d.

Meanwhile a column consisting of 5 or 6000 men made its appearance towards our left, on which account the brigade of guards and the British heavy cavalry remained ready for action on their camp ground all that day, (the baggage and camp equipage being sent away in the morning,) but they observing our advantageous situation, and dreading the thought of meeting the British cavalry a second time on an open plain, thought proper not to make any approaches,

May.
22d.

About three o'clock in the afternoon, the right wing of our army being much fatigued, and having lost a great number of men, began to lose ground considerably, and the enemy having passed the village of Froiennes, in and near which the hottest of the action had continued the whole day, advanced fast towards Tournay on the Courtray road; on which his Royal Highness sent the second brigade of British infantry under the command of Major-general Fox, it consisted of the 14th, 37th, and 53d regiments, with some of the British artillery. This brigade meeting the enemy, after firing a few rounds, charged them with such resolution and bravery, that it turned the scale of action once more in our favour, and the enemy were forced to fall back; and through the spirit and activity of our artillery, who also came fresh into action, they continued to lose ground, though but slowly, till darkness

“ Impos’d a grateful truce,
“ And silence on the odious din of war.”

Such

Such a battle hath, I believe, seldom been known, so fierce, and for such a length of time; our out-posts were driven in, and the cannonading begun at seven in the morning, and continued one continual roar of artillery and musketry till near half past nine at night.

It is said that the French had above one hundred thousand men this morning, and that they have left above 9000 dead in the field. Report says also, that our army had near 4000 men killed, besides a vast number wounded.

We took seven pieces of cannon from them in the course of the day.

The whole of the troops remained under arms all night, but when morning appeared, we perceived the enemy had retired.

Head Quarters, Tournay, 23d May, 1794.

Parole Americus.

"IT is his Royal Highness the commander in chief's express order, that whenever the troops, or any particular corps,

May.

23d.

May.
23d.

corps, march without their camp equipage, no woman is upon any pretence whatever to be permitted to follow the column.

" His Royal Highness desires this may be considered as a standing order, and expects the commanding officers of regiments will take care it is most strictly complied with.

" It is necessary at the same time to warn the women and followers of the army, that the provost-marshall is hereby directed to inflict on every offender the most exemplary punishment; and if the offence deserves it, even to execute on the spot, any woman or follower of the army, of any description whatever, who by cruelty, plunder, or marauding, may bring disgrace on the troops under his Royal Highness's command.

" This order to be read at this evening's roll call, at the head of every troop or company in the army, on which occasion all women and followers of the army are ordered to attend, that none may plead

plead ignorance of the awful punishment to which they will subject themselves by this crime. And his Royal Highness relies with confidence on the assistance of every officer to prevent the glory so justly acquired by the army in the field, being sullied by acts of inhumanity and depreciation.

“ Whenever it is possible, it is the order of his Majesty the Emperor, that all attacks may be made with drums beating and colours flying.

“ His Majesty the Emperor has desired that his most particular thanks may be expressed to every part of the allied army that was engaged yesterday, for the great gallantry they displayed, by which the desirable end was obtained, of completely defeating the enemy.

“ His Royal Highness the commander in chief desires to express his particular thanks to Major-general Fox; to the 14th regiment under the command of Major Ramsy; to the 37th regiment commanded by Captain Lightburn; to the

May.
23d.

May.

53d regiment commanded by Major Wiseman; and to the detachment of artillery that was attached to them under the command of Capt. Trotter; for that great display of intrepidity and good conduct which reflects the greatest honour upon themselves, at the same time that it was highly instrumental in deciding the important victory of the 22d.

" His Royal Highness much laments the loss they have sustained, but flatters himself they feel it in some manner compensated by the credit they have gained."

24th.

A malicious report having been circulated through the army, that it was owing to some misconduct in themselves, that the British troops were surrounded on the 18th instant, the Emperor published the following declaration:

Head Quarters, Tournay, 25th May, 1794.

Parole Christophules.

25th.

" HIS Imperial Majesty has heard with the greatest displeasure, that a report has

has been spread of the British troops having allowed themselves to be surprized on the 18th instant.

May.

25th.

" He hastens, therefore, to make it publicly known, that he is perfectly convinced of the untruth of this report, and of their having behaved that day with their accustomed resolution and courage; that they only retired from the too great superiority of the enemy's numbers, being attacked in front, flanks, and rear, at the same time; and that their retreat was performed with the utmost steadiness and order.

" His Imperial Majesty takes the earliest opportunity to inform the troops of the combined powers, that since he has taken the command of the army, he has almost every day had proofs of their ardour and courage, and cannot too strongly express his satisfaction and gratitude to them on their former conduct."

Ever

26th.

Ever since we have take : this position we have had a great number of men employed at work.

A chain of redoubts runs all along the front and flanks of this extensive encampment from the Scheldt on the right to the Orchies road on the left, and so well calculated for defence, that we are under no apprehension of being taken by storm.

27th.

Several women that were taken prisoners on the 18th and carried into Lifle, returned to camp. They are loud in praise of the French, whom they extol to the skies for their civility and kindness to them, and the rest of the prisoners ; they say they were loaded with wine and other provisions, and accompanied to the gates of Lifle with a band of music, and from thence conducted to the advanced posts.

They brought several letters from the prisoners at Lifle.

June.

Extract from this Day's Orders.

" CORPS to give a return to-morrow morning at orderly time, to the Quarter-master-general, of the names of the women in each, whose husbands have been killed or taken prisoners, and who are desirous of going to England."

Anniversary of his Majesty's birth-day, 4th.
his Royal Highness gave an entertainment,
to which he invited all the commanding
officers of regiments, &c.

At a general court martial, by which a number had been tried for divers crimes, were also tried two followers of the army, one for stealing a horse, and the other for robbing a soldier, and sentenced one thousand lashes each, which were ordered to be put in execution to-morrow the 6th.

Head Quarters, Tournay, 7th June, 1794.

Parole Clebus.

" HIS Royal Highness the Duke of York thinks it incumbent on him to announce 7th.

June.
7th.

notince to the British and Hanoverian troops under his command, that the National Convention of France, pursuing that gradation of crimes and horrors which has distinguished the periods of its government; as the most calamitous of any that has yet occurred in the history of the world, has just passed a decree, "that their soldiers shall give no quarter" "to the British and Hanoverian troops."

" His Royal Highness anticipates the indignation and horror which will naturally arise in the minds of the brave troops whom he addresses, upon receiving this information.

" His Royal Highness desires, however, to remind them, that mercy to the vanquished is the brightest gem in a soldier's character; and he exhorts them not to suffer their resentment to lead them to any precipitate act of cruelty on their part, which may fully the reputation they have acquired in the world.

" His Royal Highness believes, that it will be difficult for brave men to conceive, that

that any set of men, who are themselves exempt from sharing in the dangers of war, should be so base and cowardly as to seek to aggravate the calamities of it upon the unfortunate people who are subject to their orders: it was, indeed, reserved for the present time to produce to the world the proof of the possibility of the existence of such atrocity and infamy.

June.
7th.

" The pretence for issuing this decree, even if founded in truth, could justify it only to minds similar to those of the Members of the National Convention: that is, in fact, too absurd to be noticed, and still less to be refuted; the French must themselves see through the flimsy artifice of a pretended assassination, by which Robespierre has succeeded in procuring that military guard which has at once established him the successor of the unfortunate Louis, by whatever name he may chuse to dignify his future reign.

" In all the wars which from the earliest times have existed between the English and the French nations, they have

June.
7th.

been accustomed to consider each other in the light of generous, as well as brave enemies ; while the Hanoverians, for a century the allies of the former, have shared in this reciprocal esteem, humanity, and kindness, which have at all times taken place the instant that opposition has ceased ; and the same cloak has frequently been seen covering wounded enemies, while indiscriminately conveying to the hospitals of the conqueror.

" The British and Hanoverian armies will not believe that the French nation, even under their present infatuation, can so far forget their characters as soldiers, as to pay any attention to a decree, as injurious to themselves as disgraceful to the persons who passed it.

" On this confidence his Royal Highness trusts, that the soldiers of both nations will confine their sentiments of resentment and abhorrence to the National Convention alone, persuaded that they will be joined in them by every Frenchman who possesses one spark of honour,

or

June.

7th.

or one principle of a soldier: and his Royal Highness is confident that it will only be on finding, contrary to every expectation, that the French army has relinquished every title to the fair character of soldiers and of men, by submitting to, and obeying so atrocious an order, that the brave troops under his command will think themselves justified, and, indeed, under the necessity of themselves adopting a species of warfare for which they will then stand acquitted to their own consciences, to their country, and to the world. In such an event the French army alone will be answerable for the ten-fold vengeance which will fall upon themselves, their wives, and their children, and their unfortunate country, already groaning under every calamity which the accumulated crimes of unprincipled ambition and avarice can heap upon their devoted victims.

“ His Royal Highness desires that this order may be read and explained to the men at three successive roll callings.”

M 2

Nothing

June.
10th.

Nothing worth notice occurred till this day ; about eleven o'clock, A. M. we were ordered to strike our tents, the baggage to be sent off, and the major part of the army to march in two columns ; ours were to be formed at Pont à Chin, on the road between Peck and Courtray. But no movement taking place, we pitched them again about seven o'clock.

14th.

In the afternoon a great deal of thunder and lightning. For some days past the weather has been excessive hot.

18th.

This morning a feu-de-joie was fired all round the encampment, from the cannon on the several batteries, in consequence of a victory obtained over the enemy on the Sambre, by the Prince of Orange. The enemy lost 7000 men, twenty-two pieces of cannon, thirty-five ammunition waggons, baggage, stores, &c.

In consequence of some threatening movement of the enemy, about one o'clock, A. M. we struck our tents, and the British light cavalry, infantry, and

reserve

reserve artillery, were ordered to be ready to march at four. About six o'clock we marched from our encampment, leaving the tents packed up, and baggage behind.

June.
18th.

We crossed the Scheldt a little below Tournay, and turning to the left, we passed the village of Kain, near the foot of that pleasant place, Mount de la Trinitie, and down along the side of the river through Obigies and Herinne, to a village called Pottes, about fifteen miles from Tournay. We reached this place about midnight, and lay down in the adjoining fields; the weather fortunately was fine.

Throughout our march along the east side of the Scheldt, the prospect is exceedingly delightful, woods, inclosures, fields, and meadows, mixed with the most beautiful variety; every field covered with the finest crops we ever saw, of wheat, barley, rye, flax, &c. and so rich in the soil, that some of the rye stands near eight feet high, and every other

June
18th.

species of grain proportionably exuberant.

The iron hand of destructive war has not yet reached this pleasant spot, and on comparing it with the desolated regions which we have lately occupied (though the soil is equally fruitful in both) it would make the most unfeeling heart lament the fatal consequences of war. Wherever we go, the most luxuriant crops are unavoidably destroyed, and the most fertile fields, now in June, assume the dismal prospect of November.

Before the conquering army the affrighted inhabitants fly, frequently leaving their whole dependence behind them, a prey to the rapacious hand of plunder, which in spite of all order and discipline, too often prevails; anon they return with trembling steps, in hopes to find relief and shelter, when, behold, instead of their once happy cottage, a heap of ruins! all their hopes destroyed for ever, none to pity, none to help!

Let

Let the sympathetic heart draw a picture to itself of their situation.

At eleven o'clock, A. M. we marched back again by the same route, to our former camp ground, at which we arrived about five in the afternoon.

Last night we lay on the ground without our tents, except a few companies in the brigade. The batt horses which should have followed the army having mistaken the road, and did not arrive till near sun-set this evening. It rained considerably both last night and this morning.

This evening a little before sun-set, orders were issued for all the heavy baggage of the British to be packed up, and assemble immediately on the left of our line next Tournay, from whence it was conducted to the other side of the town towards Leuze.

At the same time the Austrian troops left us, being withdrawn to some other quarter.

Our army being thus diminished, it became necessary to contract the line of

June.

19th.

20th.

21st.

June. our encampment, for which purpose our tents were struck after dark, and about one o'clock next morning our new line was formed; the right near the village of Orq, towards the Fauxbourg de Lisle; the left reaching the heights near the Orchus road; the British heavy cavalry on the left.

23d. This day the heavy baggage set off for Gramont, where it is to be parked till further orders. The bread waggons, &c. are parked without the gate of Tournay, towards the above place. Every imagination is wound up to the highest pitch; in expectation of some great event, from such obvious preparations, but all is doubt and uncertainty. Meanwhile a thousand whimsical stories are circulating every hour among the soldiers.

It is certain, however, that General Clairfait cannot maintain his ground in West Flanders, and that if he gives way, our position here will not be tenable.

24th. Our suspicions are now confirmed that a retreat is intended, in consequence of General

General Clairfait's being forced to fall back.

June.
24th.

About noon our whole army was in motion, and passing through Tournay, arrived about sun-set at Ronaix, by a very pleasant road. The whole country through which we marched, exhibits a most delightful scene; a pleasing variety of hills and vallies, woods and lawns, the whole covered with the most beautiful verdure, while from the summit of each rising ground you discover a new landscape, above the power of art to describe.

Ronaix is a handsome lively town, has a large market-place, well supplied with cloth, and cloaths ready made of all sorts, linen drapery, hardware, toys, &c. with a great number of hogs, which meat is very reasonable here.

It is surrounded, except on the south-east, with hills of a gentle ascent, covered with wood, forming a kind of amphitheatre.

We pitched our camp in two parallel lines, on the south-side of the town; the infantry

June. infantry in front, and the heavy cavalry in the rear ; the light cavalry on the other side of the town towards Oudenarde. Our out-posts were now along the east side of the Scheldt.

27th. A heavy cannonading has been heard since day-light toward Oudenarde and beyond.

At noon our tents were struck, baggage packed, and every thing in readiness to march. General Clairfait being attacked by the enemy in three columns, but not prevailing, we pitched our tents again at six o'clock, P. M.

30th. The enemy has lately bombarded Oudenarde, which is still in our possession, and from whence we have brought our bread, forage, &c. since we have been here.

General Clairfait has fallen back to Ghent.

It is reported the enemy has above three hundred thousand effective men on this frontier, compared with which number all our army is but a small piquet,

so that we have begun to retreat ; it is probable we may continue to do so, till we find a proper place to make a stand against such unequal numbers.

Some days past have been exceeding sultry, and this evening there fell a little rain, with a great deal of thunder and lightning.

Agreeable to the orders of yesterday, the tents were struck at two o'clock this morning, and about eight o'clock the whole marched by the right in one column in the following order, viz. The British infantry leading in the order of battle, followed by the Hessian infantry ; the British cavalry follows the Hessian infantry, and the column is closed by the Hessian cavalry.

About five o'clock, P. M. we reached Gramont, a handsome town situated on the southern declivity of a hill, at the bottom of which flows the river Dender, which, in passing through the town, is divided into two branches, one for navigation,

July.

3d.

July. vigation, and the other for water-mills, bleaching, &c.

The custom of white-washing the outside of their houses adds greatly to the beauty of the town, which seen from the southward, the houses rising gradually one above the other, has a very pleasant prospect.. On the top of the hill is an observatory surrounded by a grove of trees.

The greatest part of our road from Ronaix to Gramont (which was a cross one) was through forests, and over heights of a considerable extent, covered with heath, which is the first barren ground we have seen in this country: which, however, by its variety, was very agreeable, having many exceeding fine prospects over the adjacent country, particularly towards the south-east, where the view was only bounded by the horizon.

4th. Struck our tents at three o'clock, moved off the ground about seven; the whole of the British marching in one column, the brigade of guards in front.

We

We pitched our camp near the village of Wambeke, about eight or nine miles to the westward of Brussels.

July.
4th.

The country through which we passed this day, is not exceeded in culture or fertility by any we have yet seen. Numberless little hamlets and cottages, shaded with verdant groves, with fields or meadows between, filled with all the luxuriance of nature's bounty, among which are great quantities of hops:

The peasants of both sexes were all busily employed, some reaping, others mowing, all in their several employments; the children homely clad, but strong and heathy, diverting themselves with innocent amusements, form a most complete and finished picture of rural industry, innocence, and happiness.

The weather has been exceeding hot yesterday and to-day, and as we march always in the heat of the day it is very fatiguing for troops carrying so much luggage as the British generally do.

Halted.

July.

5th.

6th.

Halted.

Marched at five in the morning to Mollem, a village near Asche, which is situated about six miles from Brussels on the Chaussee to Dendermond, from which it is also six miles.

A column of General Clairfait's army marched through Asche to Brussels this morning, which detained our column some hours, as they crossed the road before us.

The Austrians have now entirely evacuated West Flanders, with the French close at their heels.

The Earl of Moira, who has stolen a march with his army by some means or other from Ostend, has reached the Dender, and we hear that some of his rear guard was attacked at Aloft this afternoon.

A heavy cannonade has also been heard southward of Brussels all this afternoon. Weather very hot.

7th.

At one o'clock P. M. struck our tents, which, with all the wheel-carriages, sat off

off at three, and at nine at night we proceeded in the following order of march, viz.

July.

British heavy cavalry with the guns attached to them in the rear.

Brigade of guards.

Two twelve-pounders, British.

Two howitzers, dittō.

First and second brigades of the line.

Two battalions of Hessians.

Two twelve-pounders, British.

Two howitzers, ditto.

Five battalions, Hessians.

8th.

Two battalions of Hessians and the 1st dragoon guards to march in the rear, in order to support the rear guard under the command of Major-general Dovey in case of necessity.

In this order marching all night, passing through Brusseghem and Gromberghen; we crossed the great canal leading from Brussels to Antwerp, at Verbrande Brugghe about sun-rising; and from thence proceeded through Eppegheim to a village called Sems, where we rested.

The

July.

The tents, baggage, &c. being sent forward to Waerloos. The fertility of the soil, and the industry of the husbandman still continues through this country, and Ceres smiling amidst her fields loaded with weighty grain, promises a plentiful harvest.

Weather still continues excessive hot.

9th.

This morning before one o'clock we were all under arms, in the order of march of yesterday, crossed the river Senne, a few miles from Sempes, and at three o'clock in the morning passed through Malines, which appears to be a fine, well-built town. The main street, which is wide, and ornamented with many elegant buildings, along which is the main road from Brussels to Antwerp, is about a mile long, at each end of which is a lofty gate, adding an air of no small consequence to the town. It is surrounded by a wide deep ditch, and a wall of no great strength, ornamented at small distances with little towers, but the whole much decayed. A fine gravel walk shaded

ded with lofty trees runs all round the rampart, which in summer is very pleasant.

July.
9th.

Near the middle of the town is a spacious market-place, on one side of which is the town-hall, and near the other side stands in view the south side of their great church, which is an ancient, Gothic building, with a square tower.

Through the middle of the town flows the river Dyle, over which is a stone bridge with three arches; and below it lay several vessels of considerable burthen.

On leaving Malines we kept to the right of the main road, crossing the river Neethe at the village of Duffel; from thence we came across the country to the chaussee between Waerloos and Kontigh, (the latter being head quarters) where we encamped, almost smothered with dust. The soil of this country is a light sand, which, in this dry season wherever it is trod upon, the wind raises in clouds like smoke from a furnace, and covers every surrounding object.

July.

This day the army with the Earl of Moira joined us; it still continues to act under his Lordship's command.

Extract from Yesterday's Orders.

"THE 3d dragoon guards will march at half past ten o'clock; they will proceed very slowly along the route of the march of the column, which it will carefully patrol, obliging all carriages without exception to quit the chaussee.

"The patroles will apprehend all persons of any nation or denomination whom they may find plundering, or committing any irregularities."

12th.

This evening the enemy, who follow close at our heels, commenced a smart cannonade with our advanced posts, which lasted some hours; but some pieces of cannon, and a reinforcement being sent out, they thought fit to retire to a more convenient distance.

13th.

In the evening came on a storm of thunder and lightning, but not much rain;
and the

the latter would be very agreeable at this time, as the ground by reason of the drought is like a heap of ashes. Water being so scarce here we have begun to sink wells, which supply the deficiency tolerably well.

The enemy are approaching near our out-posts in considerable strength. This morning a brisk fire of musketry was kept up for above two hours by the pi- quets, &c. after which the enemy retired. Some battalions of Dutch and Hessians being left in the town of Malines, the enemy approached it in the morning, when a heavy cannonade commenced, which continued all day.

The enemy having possessed themselves of Malines, our troops in front of our position have yesterday and to-day sent back all their baggage towards Antwerp, which indicate a retrograde movement for the whole. A cannonade has been kept up all this day between the out-posts.

This day four light companies joined the brigade with a small draught for the

July.

Coldstream and 3d regiment. The light companies joined the flank battalion, which now consists of twelve companies.

The out-posts of each army having established themselves on their respective sides of the river Neethe, remain very quiet.

Weather exceeding sultry.

20th.

Every thing has been very tranquil for some days past.

Whatever enmity may be in the hearts of the rulers of nations or conductors of war against each other, there seems to be little animosity between individuals of the different armies. Since the 17th the advanced posts of the French army have been established on one side of the river Neethe, and our's on the other; the river is about thirty or forty paces wide; the cannon are planted on both sides ready for attack or defence; yet the men walk about, or carelessly lay on the bank on each side, and frequently converse with each other. Several of the French have stript and swam over to our men, bringing

ing with them gin and other liquors, and after drinking with each other with the utmost frankness and cordiality, swim back again to their posts.

This familiarity was, however, strictly forbidden as soon as known.

What reflecting mind but must lament the fatal custom, necessity, or other causes, that urge men, not only without remorse, but with an ardent zeal to destroy each other, between whom no cause of complaint ever existed, but only to satiate the ambition, avarice, or revenge of a few individuals.

The flank battalion was divided, the four companies of grenadiers put under the command of Lieutenant-colonel Stanhope, and the eight companies of light infantry under the command of Colonel Sir James Duff.

Marched about five o'clock this morning in three columns; our column encamped at Wyneghem, six miles east of Antwerp.

July.

July.

On the road near Antwerp are some very elegant seats of the nobility and gentry; and where we encamped this day is one with a very extensive pleasure ground and gardens, diversified with all the variety of woods, shrubberies, fish ponds, canals, &c. but much out of repair, the proprietor having absconded, perhaps for some political reason.

23d.

Marched at seven this morning, and about two o'clock encamped near the village of Westwesel, on a vast extended plain covered with heath; on the north side of which our encampment stretched for several miles.

There is no comparison between this country and that we have lately passed through; nothing now is seen but barren heaths, and except what we brought with us, nothing is to be had either to eat or drink; not even water, but what we have out of ditches or ponds.

The magazines of forage, &c. which could not be removed from Antwerp,

were

were set fire to, which burnt all this day.

July.

Marched and encamped about three miles from Rosendale, eight or nine from Bergen-op-Zoom ; Rosendale being our head quarters. Here again are vast plains, hardly half covered with heath, and small patches of wood here and there, which never arrive to any considerable growth ; and where there happens to be a cottage, the ground they occupy bears so little, that one would think it hardly repays them for the cultivation.

24th.

We dug a great number of wells here, and by that means were pretty well supplied with water, which, however, in this country is neither plentiful nor good.

Orders given for the army to march to-morrow morning at four o'clock, in two columns, the heavy baggage being already sent off.

29th.

At half past three o'clock this morning our march was countermanded, and about five we were ordered under arms ; immediately after three regiments of light in-

30th.

July.
30th.

fantry, the brigade of guards, two battalions of Hessian grenadiers, and a few squadrons of other cavalry, marched to the village of Nispenn, where we lay under arms a short time, and then advanced about two miles further to a common, where we formed the line of battle. The whole being only considered as a reconnoitering party, the light cavalry advanced in strong patrols to discover the enemy's position; when, in advancing to a high ridge of sand hills, and seeing only a few patrols of the enemy, who retreated upon their approach, they came back again, and soon after we returned to our encampment.

Extract from the Orders of the 29th.

For the information of the army, and to prevent disputes, the following is a table of the value of the money in this country:

July,
30th.

DUTCH COINS,

*Calculated at the par of eleven Florins Dutch Currency,
per Pound Sterling.*

COINS.	Dutch.			Eng.	
	Fl.	Sti.	Doi.	s.	d.
A Dutch ducat worth	5	5	0	equal to	9 $\frac{1}{2}$
A coin of three florins	3	0	0	—	5 $\frac{1}{2}$
A ducatoon	3	3	0	—	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
A deilder	1	10	0	—	2 $\frac{3}{4}$
A coin of twenty-eight stivers	1	8	0	—	2 $\frac{1}{2}$
A skillion	0	6	0	—	0 $\frac{1}{2}$
A Dutch gilder	1	0	0	—	1 $\frac{9}{4}$
A Dutch rix dollar	2	11	0	—	4 $\frac{1}{2}$
A stiver	0	1	0	—	0 1

ZEALAND COIN.

A rix dollar	.	.	2	12	0	—	4	$8\frac{3}{4}$
A half ditto	.	.	1	6	0	—	2	$4\frac{1}{2}$
A quarter rix dollar	.	.	0	13	0	—	1	$2\frac{1}{4}$
One-eighth ditto	.	.	0	6	6	—	0	7
One shilling	.	.	0	5	6	—	0	6
A double gee	.	.	0	2	0	—	0	2
A stiver	.	.	0	1	0	—	0	1

N. B. The foregoing calculation is made as far as the fraction admits of one farthing;

Aug.

Head Quarters, Rosendale, August 3, 1794,

Parole St. George.

3d.

"THE army marches to-morrow morning at half past three o'clock in the following order;

"The left column to consist of Hanoverian and Hessian cavalry of the 2d line; Hanoverian and Hessian infantry of the same: two British twelve pouders: Major-general Fox's, and Brigadier-general Graham's brigade: two howitzers: Brigadier-general Balfour's brigade: infantry of the reserve with their guns (viz. the brigade of guards:) British cavalry of the 2d line: Hessian dragoons of the reserve."

The right column was composed similar to the left.

The left column was ordered to march through Etton, and to be under the command of Lieutenant-general Sir William Erskine: the right column through Springfield.

dall, under the command of General Aug.
Count Walmoden.

Marched according to the orders of 4th,
yesterday, and passed through Breda, and
encamped near Osterhout, on a large
plain full of the vestiges of war. Mounts
were thrown up to a great height with
excessive labour, and many raised plat-
forms, batteries, redoubts, &c. still re-
tained nearly their original form.

Here again we dug wells, and disco-
vered many old ones, which had been fil-
led up with wood, &c. at the bottom not
much decayed.

On that part of the common nearest
Breda are a great number of criminals
hung in chains, four of whom have been
lately executed, one broke upon the wheel,
and three hung.

One was chained up alive to a high
post resembling a crucifix; one chain goes
round under his arms, one round his loins,
and a third round his ankles; and in that
posture it is said that he lived three days,
and part of the fourth. I could not learn

Aug.

to any degree of certainty the several crimes of these men.

There are also the remains of a great many more unfortunate wretches scattered up and down this Golgotha ; as also the fragments of several wheels and instruments of torture.

Our soldiers were ordered to take down the careases and bury them, which they did, and burnt the gallows, posts, &c. to which they had been suspended.

Breda is a neat, well built town, strongly fortified, and the Dutch are now busily employed in repairing the works, and making every necessary preparation for a vigorous defence, should the enemy attempt it. The trees of every description are cut down within cannon shot of the town, and every thing removed that might tend to favour the approach of the enemy.

8th.

This day the engineers and others pointed out places for throwing up redoubts, batteries, &c. in front of the encampment,

campment, and working parties were ordered accordingly.

This day John Gorman, a private of the 8th regiment of light dragoons, was shot, pursuant to the sentence of a general court martial, for mutiny. The whole of the British army was under arms on the occasion.

About three o'clock, P. M. came on a most terrible storm of hail and rain, accompanied with one continued roar of thunder and flashes of lightning; it lasted about thirty-five minutes, and set the country all afloat.

This day the Prince of Orange visited Breda, and inspected the inundations, which have perfectly well succeeded.

Early this morning a patrol consisting of 800 cavalry, and 200 infantry, with four pieces of Hessian flying artillery, were sent out to reconnoitre. Upon coming near the village of Tilbourg, they received information that a piquet of 500 French were in it, they accordingly made the necessary arrangements for surrounding

Aug.

18th.

19th.

23d.

24th.

Aug.

ing the village, but a serjeant of the 16th light dragoons deserting to the enemy, gave them timely notice, by which means they made their escape.

This being the birth-day of the Prince of Orange, a grand entertainment was made at head quarters. In the evening the Prince, Princess, and several others of their relations, in carriages, viewed the army drawn up at the head of their respective encampments.

28th.

This night at ten o'clock orders were issued to strike the tents immediately, and the army to march at twelve.

29th.

Accordingly we marched soon after twelve, and this afternoon encamped on a wide plain in front of Bois-le-Duc.

Marched at four o'clock this morning through Bois-le-Duc, and encamped on some large plains behind it; head quarters being at a village called Udden.

30th.

Bois-le-Duc is a large, beautiful, populous town, strongly fortified both by nature and by art, there being only two roads leading to it, one on the south and the

the other on the north ; these roads are raised with much labour several feet above the level of the meadows through which they pass, near a mile in length ; these meadows can be inundated at pleasure ; and these passes are so defended, that it is impossible to force them.

Aug.

The British infantry were brigaded as follows, taking place the 30th instant :

Brigades of Infantry in the Duke of York's Army.

First brigade, Major-general Stewart, 3d, 31st.
40th, 55th, 59th, and 89th regiments.

Second brigade, do. 8th, 27th, 28th, and 57th do.

Third brigade, do. 12th, 33d, 42d, and 44th do.

Fourth brigade, Major-general Fox, 14th, 37th, 38th, and 63d do.

Fifth brigade, do. 15th, 53d, 54th, and 88th do.

Head quarters were this day changed to Burlecombe.

Sept.
1st.

Nothing

Sept.
14th.

Nothing particular occurred till this day, when the enemy advanced to the eastward of Bois-le-Duc, with a very superior force, seemingly with a design to cut off our retreat ; consequently our situation being no longer tenable, this night at eleven o'clock the reserve, consisting of the brigade of guards, and the 3d brigade of the line, with a proportion of cavalry and artillery, were ordered to march, under the command of that brave and gallant officer Major-general Abercrombie.

15th.

At day-light they began the attack upon the enemy's advanced posts, but without forcing them back ; however, it effectually answered the purpose intended of checking their advance, and our troops made a very good retreat back to the camp with very little loss.

16th.

Meanwhile the army was on its march for Graaf, on the river Meuse. The baggage, tents, &c. being sent off in the morning, we marched at midnight, and about four o'clock next morning passed

through Graaf, crossed the river Meuse on a pontoon bridge, and encamped at a small distance from the river, to the right, near the village of Wicken, which was head quarters.

Graaf, or Gráve, is a small but very strong place, apparently in good repair. The river washes its walls on the north side.

A full allowance of spirits was ordered for the troops this day.

This day the army marched about five miles further back, and encamped on a hilly common about four or five miles south of Nimeguen.

This situation is very convenient for wet weather, being a dry moorish soil, which lays high, but no water to be found near.

The Meuse is now the barrier between us and the French, and had we a little more force, we might defend it; but we are only a handful compared to their multitudes, and they appear to be equally

Sept.

21st.

Sept. as well appointed in every respect as we are, both cavalry and infantry.

22d. The enemy made some attempts to approach the river above Grave, but they were repulsed and lost one piece of cannon.

23d. In order to put a stop to that scandalous and too prevalent practice of plundering, his Royal Highness gave this day in public orders a pointed address to the officers of the army, and another caution to the men; at the same time empowering the Provost to execute on the spot any one whom he might detect in the commission of that act of disobedience.

A great deal of rain this night, with thunder and lightning.

24th. This evening the enemy made some advances towards the out-posts of Grave, but they were again repulsed.

Very stormy weather.

25th. This day a spy dressed in the uniform of an emigrant hussar, was taken up near the camp; as soon as he found himself detected, he swallowed some poison which

which he had ready prepared. He was conducted to head-quarters alive, but although every medical assistance was applied, he died soon after.

Sept:

It being discovered that some correspondence has been carried on between some sutlers who follow the camp, and the enemy; an order was issued to apprehend all suspected persons of that description; but nothing of any importance was discovered.

26th.

In consequence of the enemy bringing a great force towards Gennep, and above it, the brigade of guards, the 3d brigade of the line, a brigade of British light cavalry, and the hussars of Salem, were ordered to march at six o'clock this morning to Gennep, from which place General Abercrombie, with those under his command, removed farther up the river, to communicate, if possible, with the right of the Austrians.

29th.

Several of our officers and those of the French conversed with each other across the river at Gennep, mutually inviting

30th.

Sept. each other to dinner, but which invitation neither party thought proper to accept.

Okt.
1st. The Austrians under General Clairfait having been defeated, and consequently exposed our left flank uncovered, which the enemy seemed inclined to turn, and being also in great force on our right, near Battenburg, at which place they seem preparing to cross the river; his Royal Highness thought it expedient to contract his army to a more central point, as it was impossible to defend the vast extent which it now occupied.

5th. Accordingly the principal part of the forces were drawn towards Nimeguen, where a bridge had previously been thrown over the Waal, and the heavy baggage have already passed.

In consequence of this we marched from Gennep at twelve at night through Grosbeck to Nimeguen. The night was extraordinary dark and rainy, and the roads rough and slippery, so that none could walk many yards without stumbling

ling

ling or falling, which made it one of the most toilsome marches we ever met with. About the time we arrived at Grosbeck we discerned day-light appearing, which made every heart ready to sing with Milton,

Hail, holy Light, &c.

We pitched our tents by the gates of Nimeguen.

Nimeguen is a large, populous town, strongly fortified, standing on a rising ground on the south banks of the riyer Waal, and the works have been put in a state of good repair, and are very strong; but there are none towards the river which is large, and runs with a very strong current; but there is a fort on the opposite side.

At eight o'clock this morning we crossed the Waal, on a bridge of boats, leaving a number of troops behind us to garrison the town of Nimeguen; we marched about seven or eight miles along the dyke, which runs by the north side

6th.

Oct.
6th.

of the river. These dykes, with which every river in this part of the country is bounded, are raised about twenty feet above the level of the country, with gravel roads on the top, wide enough for two carriages to pass each other. We were cantoned in a number of small villages, and received in general but very indifferent treatment from the inhabitants, who by the bye, if we may judge from appearances, are no friends to us, and give Old England but little thanks for expending her blood and treasure in defending them from the incursions of the Carmagnols, whom they would certainly make more welcome than us: indeed many of them say so to our face, and we have every reason to believe that what they say is true.

A very singular circumstance happened this day, the particulars are as follow:

A few miles before we arrived at our place of destination, from some obstruction in the front among the waggons, the column made a halt for a few minutes, during

during which time a young lad, a driver, went to a house near the road, and whether he had taken away any thing without paying for it, or from what other cause we knew not, but he was shut out of the house, fired at from the windows, and slightly wounded ; several other shots were fired from the windows, and a man of the name of Street, belonging to the 1st regiment, was much wounded and fell. This soon alarmed those who were near, and a crowd of the grenadier battalion assembling round the house, Serjeant Malpas, the drill serjeant of the battalion, was ordered by an officer to go and examine into the matter. He accordingly went, and in forcing the door open broke his sword in half, and following a man up stairs received a stab with a sword in the left breast, upon which he came down, and taking a firelock from a soldier, was going up stairs again; when the man or men above shot him dead on the spot : he fell backwards, and was taken out of the house by those present.

O&

6:h.

Oct.

6th.

This so enraged the soldiers, that they instantly set fire to the house, which being thatched, in a few minutes was all in a blaze. In the mean time every one was watching to see who should come out of the house. Two men soon jumped out at a window, one of which soon disappeared, the other they seized and instantly hung upon a tree while his house was in flames, and after shooting at, and otherwise mangling him, left him hanging, as a dreadful example to his villainous countrymen.

Two women, one of which had a child in her arms, came out of the house after it was set on fire, and were suffered to go unmolested; the woman who had the child was wounded in the thigh and bled very much.

It was suspected from the firing that was kept up from the windows that there were more than two men in the house, and that they might probably have concealed themselves in the cellars; on that account a serjeant and sixteen men were left

left at the house during the night, but
nothing appeared to confirm that opinion.
oat.

This is a very ominous prelude to our winter quarters among the Dutch ; however, soldiers are not apt to be superstitious.

Marched at eight o'clock, passing 7th. through Thiel about twenty miles down the river side, and were cantoned at the most convenient places all along the side of the river. The grenadiers of the guards opposite Bommel, the light infantry battalion at Nergnen, Meteron, Aste, &c. the other battalions of the guards on our left, and the line of British, and Hessians, &c. extending as far up the river side as to communicate with the right of the Austrian army from Emmerick.

The Dutch troops are on our right as far as Gorcum, &c. and several British troops occupy the district of Bommel. The enemy having got possession of Fort St. Andre by the treachery of the Dutch commander, Lieutenant-general Abercrombie was ordered to retake it; which, 12th. he

oa. he accordingly did, without losing a man: a piquet, consisting of about 400 infantry, with artillery, &c. kept possession of it, and was relieved every forty-eight hours.

Lieutenant-general Abercrombie, who commands in this district, has established his quarters at Bommel.

Head quarters are at Arnheim.

17th. The grenadier battalion, and two companies of the light infantry, were detached to the post of Heldt, six miles below Bommel, where they remained till the 28th. The enemy are very numerous opposite to us, and make some attempts to retake fort St. Andre almost every day. They have thrown some shells into Thiel.

20th. Yesterday the enemy made a general attack on all the out-posts from Nimeguen. The 37th regiment of foot behaved with great gallantry; but unfortunately mistaking a strong body of French hussars for the hussars of the regiment Rohan in our service, suffered them to enter the village in

in which they were, when the hussars turning upon them, killed or took prisoners, it is said, all of them, except Major Hope who commanded, and about fifty men.

This day and yesterday the enemy made a movement towards Nimeguen, which place they seem determined to have, cost what it may.

We think it is impossible for them to cross the Waal, if the Dutch stand true to their trust. The whole of the river is commanded by our guns, and batteries erected all along the dyke at convenient distances, besides which, a road is made behind the dyke for guns, carriages, &c. to pass and repass; and the river Waal rolls down in such a torrent, that to construct any thing like a bridge over it, would require much time and trouble.

A change of position taking place in the army towards our left, the brigade of guards marched at night, so as to occupy the following places an hour before daylight in the morning :

Oct.

Grenadiers, Wadonoyin.

Light infantry and 1st regiment, Thiel.

Coldstream, Yoondon.

Third regiment, Sandgate and Echteld.

The heavy baggage of the army was ordered to cross the Leck at Wagenigen, to some villages below Rhenen.

31st.

Marched this night, and before daylight took the following cantonments:

Grenadier and light infantry, Dodewaart.

First regiment, Heins.

Coldstream, Eelst.

Third regiment divided between the two last mentioned places.

The French fired several shot at some of our waggons, with sick, &c. which came along the dyke, but did no damage.

Nov.

Several shells were thrown into Thiel.

2d.

A heavy cannonading heard towards Fort St. Andre.

4th.

The cannonading at Fort St. Andre still continues.

At

At two o'clock, P. M. our troops made a sortie from Nimeguen, and without firing a shot, entered the enemy's entrenchments, and put all they found to the bayonet. In the mean time the cavalry getting round the flanks, made terrible havock among the French: it is reported not less than 600 were killed, and a great number wounded, who got away. Prisoners they took none. General de Burgh commanded, and the troops engaged were the hussars of Damas; British cavalry, 15th light dragoons; infantry, 8th, 27th, 28th, 55th, 63d, and 78th regiments; with two battalions of Hanoverian infantry, and the Hanoverian garde du corps.

Nov.
5th.

The troops began to evacuate Nimeguen, in consequence of which our brigade again changed its post, in order to make room for them.

6th.

The 1st and 3d regiments to Thiel.

Grenadiers to Drumpt.

Light infantry to Wadonoyin.

Coldstream to Sandyke.

Nime-

Nov. 20th Nimeguen was entirely evacuated this day; but the enemy having brought some guns to bear on the bridge, a random shot cut a rope, by which part of the bridge swung round to the enemy's side, and about 800 Dutch were taken prisoners. The loss would not be great if they were all taken.

Several regiments having lately joined our army, the whole of the British infantry were brigaded in the following order:

13th.

Brigades of British Infantry.

First brigade, Major-general Stewart, 30th, 40th, 55th, 59th, and 79th regiments.

Second do. Major-general de Burgh, 8th, 37th, 44th, 57th, and 88th do.

Third do. Major-general Balfour, 12th, 33d, 42d, and 78th do.

Fourth do. Major-general Fox, 14th, 38th, 63d, and 80th do.

Fifth do. do. 19th, 54th, 84th, and 89th do.

Sixth

Sixth do. do. 27th, 28th, 53d, and 85th

Nov.

do.

The sick have been frequently sent to the general hospitals, totally destitute of necessaries, the fatal consequence of which practice is evident in this severe season.

His Royal Highness, always attentive to the good of the soldiers, issued an order, directing the commanding officers of regiments to pay very particular attention to this object; and likewise ordering the surgeons, purveyors, &c. at the hospitals, to provide them with what is necessary.

Last night a barn wherein a company of the light infantry was quartered, caught fire, which, with the adjoining house, was consumed. Several articles belonging to the men were destroyed, but no lives lost.

17th.

A severe frost set in.

The enemy having laid siege to Grave, we frequently hear the cannonading there,

18th.

The

21st. The brigade of guards changed their cantonments again; the grenadiers to Arnheim; 1st regiment to Elden, near Amhun; Coldstream to _____, and 3d regiment to Valburgh.

The light infantry remained on the outpost, and was cantoned at Osterhout, nearly opposite Nimeguen.

There are fourteen British regiments now along the Waal, from Osterhout to Wadonoyin; the Dutch on the right towards Gorcum, and beyond; and Hessians and Hanoverians on the left. There are also five regiments hutt'd behind Osterhout.

28th. Working parties from the brigade, of 400 men, daily are employed in completing the defence of the Waal, opposite Nimeguen.

30th. The frost being gone, the roads (except on the dykes) are so deep as to be almost impassable.

The general rumour now is, of a peace being negotiating, and I think some believe it, but all wish for it.

The

The number of sick has increased of late in such an extraordinary manner, that above half the number of some battalions are now in the several hospitals.

Nov.

His Royal Highness has been pleased to order the commanding officers of regiments, on application from their surgeons, to supply the sick with whatever quantity of wine may be necessary.

Dec.
1st.

Last night a tremendous cannonade was kept up at Grave, and with small intervals all this day.

Last night we heard no firing from Grave, but some few shots this day. All quiet here.

The French sentries and our's frequently converse across the river; they complain of having no liquor, and very little meat.

7th.

The sickness still continues among our troops; numbers are sent to the hospitals every day.

8th.

The general hospital for the British, which has been at Rhenen for five or six

Dec. months past, is now crowded, and thirty or forty dying every day.

9th. Grave still holds out, from whence was heard a very heavy cannonading last night. It is not customary for Dutchmen to stand so much fire.

Our commander in chief being gone to England, the command of the allied army devolves on Lieutenant-general Count Walmoden, and the British are more particularly under the command of Lieutenant-general Harcourt.

10th. Early this morning a number of the enemy crossed the river above Nimeguen, on the left of the canal, in some boats, drove back the Hessians, and spiked some pieces of cannon; but a reinforcement arriving, they retreated back again without much loss.

General de Busch, with sixteen rank and file, were killed.

11th. All is quiet this day, not a single gun to be heard, neither from Grave nor along the Waal.

As

As a storm is frequently preceded by a calm, so we may expect some work to do soon; flushed with victory, and of an active enterprising spirit, we cannot expect the French will remain long idle.

The enemy made another attempt to cross the river near the same place as before, but were repulsed.

A heavy firing also at Grave.

General de Busch was buried with the usual military honours, in the great church at Arnheim.

A severe frost set in again. The firing at Grave continues.

Every thing remains quiet. Nothing heard from Grave.

Sickness still increases.

Frost continues severe, with a fall of snow.

Meat, and every other article of living is very scarce here, on account of the bridge being broke down at Arnheim by the ice.

The ice being sufficiently strong in many places to admit infantry to cross,

Dec.

13th.

14th.

15th.

22d.

25th.

28th.

Dec.

about 700 of the French crossed the Waal at Bommel, and made a lodgement under the dyke, where they continued two days. Some of them penetrated near to Molein, but were driven back again with very little loss. Our loss was two officers wounded, and twelve rank and file killed.

Orders are issued for the sick and heavy baggage of the army to be sent beyond the Leck with all possible expedition.

Several movements took place in order to strengthen the defence of the river towards Thiel and Bommel; the 1st regiment and grenadiers marched to Dode-waart, from whence others moved to Thiel, &c.

29th.

Where is now the boasted security of the Dutch, with all their inundations? Behold the hand of Omnipotence arrests the rapid current: a smooth firm passage is made over the waves, which all human power and wisdom cannot prevent, and even their chief defence is made subservient to the designs of the enemy. Frost still continues,

Marched

Marched this morning : the grenadiers and light infantry to Dodewaart and Ochtion ; the 1st regiment to Yssendorn ; and the 3d regiment to Echleldt.

The rivers are all completely froze over, and passable at most places.

Frost continues excessive severe. Every arrangement is made for a retreat across the Leck ; the sick are removing from the general hospital at Rhenen, and every thing indicates a speedy movement ; but where we are to make a stand next time, God only knows.

Frost still continues, and our sick increase. Duty is, and has been, very hard, and fuel and provisions are very scarce.

This morning the artillery began to destroy the limbers and carriages of the guns on the several batteries ; as all guns, ammunition, &c. that cannot be taken away, are ordered to be destroyed.

Orders having been previously given, and the cannon and ammunition on the batteries along the Waal being destroyed

Jan.

1795.

1st.

2d.

3d.

4th.

7th.

Jan.
7th.

as much as possible, the army abandoned the post on that river, and crossed the Leck at several places, as previously ordered. The Coldstream and 3d regiment did not cross that day, for the enemy following up closely, several skirmishes ensued, in which the 3d regiment had one killed and several wounded. The grenadiers, light infantry, and 1st regiment crossed at Rhenen.

Rhenen is a small town, but pleasantly situated on the north banks of the river Leck ; it has no fortification, except a wall and dry ditch, which hardly deserves that name.

It has a small church, with a very high steeple, of a noble appearance and elegant architecture.

Part of the church, and a large building resembling a monastery adjoining, has been converted into an hospital since August last, for the whole of the British army. The hospital, as well as every other place, are filled with soldiers, and no trade of any kind appears. Several

large

large temporary hospitals have been erected
in the fields adjoining.

Jan.

The great mortality which has lately pervaded this army, added to the shameful abuse and neglect in several of the hospital departments, has made it a perfect Golgotha. Upwards of four thousand men having been buried here within the last three months.

At this time near half the army are sick, and the other half much fatigued with hard duty. This is now the tenth day since any of us has had a night's rest, or had time to undress.

About one o'clock this morning we recrossed the Leck; measures being taken and arrangements made to attack the enemy at Thiel by day-light this morning.

But the enemy was beforehand with us, and instead of waiting for us, they attacked General Dundas's out-posts from Burn, &c. and also crossed the Waal at several other places in very great force.

8th.

Jan.

We formed a line in the morning along the dyke on the south side of the Leck. One of our sentries shot an emigrant hussar as he was patrolling in front of our posts, mistaking him for one of the enemy, whose dress his very much resembled.

9th.

Every thing very quiet this day. The army is prodigiously crowded, and the wretched inhabitants greatly distressed. Frost continues severe, with a fall of snow.

10th.

The brigade crossed the Leck a second time, and took our posts on the heights, to the left of Rhenen; sheltered a little in the large sheds used for the purpose of drying tobacco, of which there are great numbers, as that plant is much cultivated here, and seems to thrive well. Frost excessive severe.

11th.

Changed our position to the right of Rhenen, and strong piquets advanced across the Leck. Here also we took shelter in these tobacco sheds, three or four companies in one shed. The sick are

are removing from the hospital as fast as possible.

Heard a heavy cannonading on our left towards Arnheim, or beyond. Every thing quiet here.

Frost still continues.

The manner of burying the dead soldiers here is adapted to the circumstances of the times : in a field appointed for that purpose, a large hole is dug in the ground, from twelve to twenty feet square, more or less, and twelve or fourteen feet deep ; here the coffins are piled regularly one above another, from the bottom to within a foot or two of the surface ; then they begin another row, complete that to the top, and so on till the hole is full, when they cover the whole over with earth, and then dig another. They are not many days in filling a hole, and the excessive severity of the frost prevents any smell from arising, which otherwise would be intolerable.

I observed on passing by Valenciennes, on the 15th of October, 1793, in our

Jan.

12th.

13th.

Jan.

route to Englefontaine, that the inhabitants there had adopted the same method of burying their dead in a place about half a mile distant from the town, only that they always covered the coffin with a little earth before they left it, so that only the side of it could be seen.

This might possibly be occasioned by the great mortality which prevailed there at that time, in consequence of the late siege.

14th.

This day the enemy made a general attack on our out-posts on the south side of the Leck, most of which were driven back, while the French appeared advancing in all quarters, especially towards our right, where we had a full view of a column of cavalry and infantry advancing towards the river, but before they reached it, they made a halt. Our piquet opposite Rhenen stood the contest all the afternoon, till darkness put an end to their firing. A few were killed, and Capt. Wheatly of the light infantry was wounded, with a number of men.

After

After dark the pickets were withdrawn, and about midnight the whole army marched by different routes, which had been previously marked out, for the river Yssel, and totally abandoned the Leck, leaving about 250 sick in Rhenen hospital, unable to be moved.

Jan.

We marched down to Amoringen, and from thence struck across a common to the villages of Scharpenzaal, Renfwort, and Wilderen. The flank battalions occupied Renfwort, and close adjoining is a remarkable pleasant seat of some nobleman. We passed by on our march some exceeding strong works, well mounted with cannon, on the line of the inundation between Amersfort and the Rhine; but our night marches having so fatigued us, and the cold so excessive severe, that no prospect could give us any satisfaction, nor was any sight pleasing except a fire.

15th.

The brigade of guards, and Colonel Strutt's brigade of the line were ordered to march at four o'clock and assemble at Lunteron, and await the orders of Major-general

16th.

Jan.
16th.

jor-general de Burgh : we accordingly marched at the appointed hour, and after a very tedious journey, about three o'clock in the afternoon reached the verge of an immense desert, called the Welaw ; when, instead of having gained a resting place for the night as we expected, were informed that we had fifteen miles further to go.

Upon this information many began to be much dejected, and not without reason ; for several of us, besides suffering the severity of the weather and fatigue of the march, had neither eat nor drank anything except water that day.

For the first three or four miles such a dismal prospect appeared as none of us was ever witness to before ; a bare sandy desert with a tuft of withered grass, or solitary shrub, here and there ; the wind was excessive high, and drifted the snow and sand together so strong, that we could hardly wrestle against it ; to which was added, a severity of cold almost insufferable. The frost was so intense, that

the

the water which came from our eyes, freezing as it fell, hung in icicles to our eyelashes, and our breath freezing as soon as emitted, lodged in heaps of ice about our faces, and on the blankets or coats that were wrapped round our heads.

Jan.

16th.

Night fast approaching, a great number, both men and women, began to linger behind, their spirits being quite exhausted, and without hopes of reaching their destination; and if they once lost sight of the column of march, though but a few minutes, it being dark, and no tract to follow, there was no chance of finding it again. In this state numbers were induced to sit down, or creep under the shelter of bushes; where, weary, spiritless, and without hope, a few moments consigned them to sleep: but, alas! whoever slept awaked no more; their blood almost instantly congealed in their veins, the spring of life soon dried up; and if ever they opened their eyes, it was only to be sensible of the last agonies of their miserable existence.

Others,

Jan.
16th.

Others, sensible of the danger of sitting down, but having lost the column, wandered up and down the pathless waste, surrounded with darkness and despair; no sound to comfort their ears but the bleak whistling wind; no sight to bless their eyes but the wide, trackless desert, and "shapeless drift;" far from human help, far from pity, down they sink to rise no more!

About half past ten o'clock at night we reached Bickborge, when, to add to our misfortunes, we could hardly find room to shelter ourselves from the weather; every house being already filled with Hessian infantry, who are in no respects friendly to the English. In several houses they positively refused us entrance, and in every one refused us admittance to the fire; at the same time they posted sentries by the cellar doors to prevent the inhabitants from selling us any liquors; even their commanding officer pushed with his own hands a number of our men neck and heels out of his quarters.

ters. Thus we were situated, till partly by force, and partly by stealth, we crept in where we could, glad to obtain the shelter of a house at any rate,

Jan.

We halted this day, and in the morning waggons were sent out with a number of men to search for those who were left behind. A great number were found dead near the route of the column, but a greater number who had straggled farther off, were never heard of more. In one place seven men, one woman, and a child were found dead; in another, a man, a woman, and two children; in another, a man, a woman, and one child; and an unhappy woman being taken in labour, she, with her husband and infant were all found lifeless. One or two men were found alive, but their hands and feet were frozen to such a degree as to be dropping off by the wrists and ankles.

17th.

Marched at day-light this morning, the grenadiers, 1st Coldstream, and 3d regiments to Vausson. The light infantry

18th.

Jan.

try battalion, passing Deventer, marched to Welson, six miles below on the banks of the Yssel; the army being cantoned all along the west side of that river from above Zutphen to the sea.

The advanced posts of our part of the army were at Loo and Appledoorn.

Frost still continues.

19th.

Perhaps never did a British army experience such distress as ours does at this time. Not a village nor house but what bears witness to our misery, in containing some dead and others dying; some are daily found who have crawled into houses singly; other houses contain five, six, or seven together, some dead, and others dying, or unable to walk, and as for those that are able, it is no easy matter for them to find their way, for the country is one continued desert, without roads, and every tract filled up with the drifting and falling snow. Add to all this, the inhabitants are our most inveterate enemies, and where opportunity offers, will rather murder a poor, lost, distressed

fressed Englishman, than direct him the right way, several instances of which we have already known. It is reported that in the several columns of the army about 700 are missing; since we left the river Leck.

Jan.

Frost continues very severe:

20th.

Our numerous hospitals, which were lately so crowded, are for the present considerably thinned. Removing the sick in waggons, without cloathing sufficient to keep them warm in this rigorous season, has sent some hundreds to their eternal home; and the shameful neglect that prevails through all that department, makes our hospitals mere slaughter-houses. Without covering, without attendance, and even without clean straw; and sufficient shelter from the weather, they are thrown together in heaps, unpitied, and unprotected, to perish by contagion; while legions of vultures, down to the stewards, nurses, and their numberless dependants, pamper their bodies and fill their coffers with the nation's treasure,

21st.

Q

and

Jan.
21st.

and like beasts of prey fatten on the blood and carcases of their unhappy fellow creatures; who of the number that are unhappily doomed to the shades of death, not one in an hundred returns, but perishes under the infernal claws of those harpies, still thirsting for more blood, and rioting in the jaws of death.

For the truth of what I say, I appeal to every man in the army who has only for a few hours observed with an attentive eye the general rule of conduct in our hospitals of late, and witness here the scene before me while I now write. A number of men laying on a scanty allowance of dirty wet straw, which from the heat of their bodies, sends up a visible steam; unable to help themselves; and though a sufficient number of men are liberally paid for their attendance, none has been near for several hours, even to help them to a drink of water. Five carcases, covered only with the rags they wore when they were alive, are piled one upon another in the yard, on pretence that the ground

ground is too hard to bury them until a thaw comes.

Jan.
21st.

This is a very disagreeable subject; but one thing more I must take notice of, which leaves them without excuse.

His Royal Highness has at all times paid great attention to the sick of his army, and directions have been given and regulations made, as circumstances required, tending to promote their comfort and restore their health; besides a number of standing orders, which, if strictly attended to, would remove the greatest part of the prevailing grievances, even at this extraordinary period, one in particular I cannot help taking notice of; it was given out in the order of the 4th of June last, and is as follows:

" HIS Royal Highness the commander in chief directs, that whenever the vicinity of the camp will permit it, a field officer for the week shall be appointed for the inspection of the flying general hospital.

Jan.

“ The officer upon this very essential duty is expected to visit frequently the hospital at *unstated hours*, to superintend the cleanliness and discipline of it *in every particular*, to examine the diet of the patients, and observe whether they receive that *unremitting care and attention their situation demands*, and to report immediately any *deficiency, neglect, or irregularity*, to the commander in chief.”

An order has also been issued with respect to cloathing the sick, which I noticed before; besides the most liberal provision being made for servants or nurses, as well as in apparel, liquor, and every other requisite, leaves no excuse for neglect in those who have the superintending of our now too numerous hospitals.

22d.

Frost continues severe.

Batt horses, baggage, &c. are sent off, and all sick officers ordered to Lingen, on the banks of the Ems. This is generally the prelude of a march.

The

The light infantry left their quarters at Welfen; and marched to Deventer, to relieve General de Burgh's brigade, who are ordered to march to-morrow.

Jan.
26th.

Deventer is a large handsome town, the houses generally commodious, and some elegant. A great number of our stragglers are come in, and many of them having taken the advantage of their absence, have plundered and committed many acts of outrage among the inhabitants in the country through which they have passed. The Dutch and us were no great friends before, but those skulking villains, for whom no punishment is too severe, has given them more cause of hatred and discontent than ever they had before; hence they shut up their shops and deny every thing at our approach, and behold us with a kind of scornful disdain, while they receive the French armies on their approach with acclamations of joy, as their only protectors; for under them their persons are safe, and if their

Jan. property is taken for the public good, it is punctually paid for with paper.

27th. Halted at Deventer. The sick sent forward, and a working party employed in destroying the guns and ammunition in the storehouses here; it being a fortified town, the stores are considerable.

29th. Marched to Hatten, a small village ten miles eastward from Deventer.

30th. To Delden, a considerable town on the Regge river; quartered very wide, round among the farm houses.

31st. To Oldenzaal, one of the Dutch frontier towns towards Germany.

This town is exceedingly distressed on account of so many troops marching through it for two months past, particularly for fuel in this severe season. Their common fuel in this country is peat, which they bring to this town from fifteen or twenty miles distant for the use of the troops. The poor natives are almost starved.

Feb. Frost, with a heavy fall of snow.
2d.

All

All the waggons are employed in removing the stores and ammunition from Delden to Benthem.

Feb.
3d.

Frost still continues, with frequent falls of snow. The inhabitants, as well as the soldiers, are greatly distressed for want of fuel.

4th.

The French still keep close at our heels ; our advanced posts are at Delden, near which place the enemy's patroles occupy.

7th.

A sudden thaw has set in, which lays the country all afloat.

9th.

The brigade of guards, except the light battalion, marched for Benthem ; the light battalion remaining till relieved by the troops on the advanced post.

The thaw continuing, the river rose to an amazing height.

10th.

The light infantry battalion was relieved this day, and marched for Benthem ; the British 16th light dragoons, the hussars of Rohan, Salm's infantry, York rangers, &c. took their post at Oldenzel.

Feb.

The river between Oldinzel and Benthem being risen to a prodigious height, the light battalion took a circuitous route by Enskedie to Grenowe, where the Hessians being quartered before we arrived, we were quartered round it, at five or six miles distance.

11th.

Marched to Gilhuis, a long village laying under the east side of a ridge of hills, two miles north-west from Benthem, where we remained. The other battalions of the brigade continued their route, the grenadiers to Ippenburen, and the others to Osnaburg, which is head quarters. General Abercrombie, who commands the advanced post, is quartered at Benthem.

13th.

The frost set in again, with a great fall of snow all this day.

The people here are exceeding kind to the English, and have the good will of the soldiers; but the army is much exasperated against the Dutch, for the inhuman treatment we have long experienced among them.

Frost

Frost continues. Our troops keep possession of Oldenzel, Enskedie, &c, and patroles as far as Delden.

Feb.
16th.

Frost very severe. Notwithstanding the kindness of the inhabitants, outrages and depredations have been already committed here; a proof that no treatment, however kind, will prevent irregularities in the army, if the reins of discipline are slackened.

17th.

A woman has been ravished and almost murdered by four of our men, who are discovered, and in confinement.

Yesterday the light infantry battalion was ordered to march this morning for Ippenburen, but countermanded again (except the baggage and sick, which are sent forward) on account of the enemy haying attacked our post at Northorn, a few miles to our right; they were, however, repulsed, and the 57th regiment marched from Benthem this morning as a reinforcement.

25th.

Various movements are taking place in our army to strengthen the frontier.

A great

Feb.
25th.

A great number of Dutch soldiers deserted from Holland about this time, and joined our army.

Extract from General Orders.

" IN paying the army, and making all other payments to be computed in English money, the following coins are to be paid and received, according to the value expressed opposite their respective denominations, viz,

" French Louis-d'ors of Lewis 15th and 16th, to pass for One Pound Sterling,

GOLD.	£. s. d.
Hanoverian pistole,	
Frederick d'or,	
August d'or,	
Charles d'or,	
Louis-d'ors of Lewis 13th and 14th,	0 16 8

SILVER.

SILVER.	<i>£.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>	Feb. 25th.
Dutch and German ducats,	0	9	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	
French crowns,	-	0	5	0
A Convention thullar,	-	0	4	5 $\frac{3}{4}$
Acus,	-	0	3	4
German florins,	-	0	2	2 $\frac{3}{4}$

" And to prevent misunderstanding tending to disappointment with the inhabitants of the country, the army are informed that the following are the general current coins passing in the Bishoprick of Osnaburg, and the rates at which they pass, viz.

" French Louis-d'ors of Lewis 15th and 16th, to pass for six Acus.

GOLD.	<i>Acus.</i>
Hanoverian Pistole,	
Frederick d'or,	
August d'or,	
Carolus d'or,	
Louis-d'or of Lewis 13th and 14th,	5 Acus

Feb.

Marian-

SILVER.

Acus.

Gros.

Double and German ducats,	2	30
French crowns,	1	18
Convention thullar,	1	12
Acus,	0	36
German florins,	0	24

26th. Marched this morning through Benthem to Scuttorp, a small, ancient looking town, on the river Aa. It has a handsome neat-built church, and a low stone wall round the town. Some of our brigade narrowly escaped drowning as they passed this town, the river having overflowed the road.

Benthem is remarkable for nothing but its castle, an ancient fabric standing on the top of a hill, around which the town is built; the castle contains a range of barracks for the military, but is no way adapted for a modern defence against a powerful enemy. The country around is in general barren, and a ridge of rocky hills runs from Benthem nearly to Scut-

torp;

Feb.
torp ; on the top of these hills, in a solitary place, is a Jew's burying ground, with several monumental inscriptions.

The inhabitants in general are very good-natured and attentive to the soldiers.

To Rheim, a considerable town on the river Ems ; the roads excessive bad, and the weather rainy. Here is a cascade all across the river, made by the dam of some water mills.

27th. Arrived at Ippenburg, where the grenadier battalion had been for some time. On our march this day we met five regiments of Brunswick going to Bentheim, &c. Frost set in again, and the roads excessive heavy.

This town is entirely surrounded by hills, which in summer time must have a very romantic appearance.

The brigade marched for the following places, being nearer the frontier. The three battalions from Osnaburg to Quakenburg, and the flank battalions to Huschenne, nine miles from Meppen, on the Ems, where General Abercrombie had

March.
4th.

March.

had now established his quarters; they were cantoned this night at Schale, a small straggling village. The roads through which we passed this day were chiefly barren hills.

5th.

To Longerick, a small village.

A great number of troops are moving towards the front from the interior parts of the country.

6th.

Arrived at Hasclunne, a small town on the river Hase. Our 15th regiment of light dragoons overtook us on our march, and continued their route towards Meppen, and the 16th, whom we relieved, has followed the same route. A barren, wild country.

7th.

Halted here. Cold, rainy weather.

8th.

Frost, and a heavy fall of snow. We have miserable quarters here, the people are in general poor, and fuel is very scarce; I saw six Dutch guilders paid for a quantity of peat, not much exceeding a hundred weight.

12th.

Two French prisoners conducted through the town on their way to head

head quarters, which are still at Osnaburg.

A patrole, consisting of eight Brunswick hussars, deserted to the enemy, who have taken sixteen men of that corps prisoners.

A smart skirmish between our advanced posts and those of the enemy a little below Meppen, but without much loss on either side. The two flank battalions are accoutred in their quarters every morning an hour before day-light.

Our park of artillery is at Vecht, behind Quakenbrugge; they have lately had a supply of 300 horses. It should seem that our army means to defend this place to the utmost, fresh troops are daily arriving from the interior. Frost still severe.

Last night a colonel of the French, with a flag of truce, came over to Meppen, where Lieutenant-general Abercrombie's quarters are, and this morning passed through Hasclunne on their way to Osnaburg.

March.

13th.

14th.

15th.

19th.

This

March.
20th.

This day two of the inhabitants were robbed by some of our soldiers, and one of them shot through the belly with a pistol. The ball was extracted from his back, but his life is in much danger. A reward of ten guineas is offered by our commanding officers to whoever will bring the guilty to conviction.

21st.

Orders arrived to march to-morrow morning for Quakenbrugge, &c. All the talk is now for England.

22d.

Marched to Laennegon, about twelve miles distance, a large village pleasantly situated on the river Hase. Weather fine and mild. The country in general barren heaths.

23d.

To Quakenbrugge, distance about eleven miles. There are some cultivated spots and woods near the rivers, which in summer are very pleasant.

This is a fine large town situated on the same river; they seem to have suffered but very little by the war; but they charge the English an exorbitant price for every article. They appear to be all Ro-

man Catholics in this part of the country, from the relics of superstition set up at every public place.

As we entered the town, we met some religious processions, in a peculiar dress, both men and women of all ages.

The people in town behaved very kind to the soldiers in their quarters.

Marched at seven this morning to Vecht, a small town, but pretty regular in its buildings. It has a large church, tolerably well ornamented.

The gable end of the houses throughout all this country are generally next the street, and in the common houses contains all the windows in the house.

Many large farm houses, and all the cottages in the country, have no chimneys; a few boards are placed above the fire to prevent the sparks from flying up to the thatch, and the smoke is left to find its way out how it can. Sometimes a hole is made for that purpose at one end of the ridge, and sometimes not; and in the country places their dwelling, their

R

barn,

March.
24th.

barn, cow-house, and stable are all in one. You enter by a great door at the end of the house, large enough to admit a waggon loaded with corn ; on the right and left, close to the walls, stand properly arranged, the cows, horses, or other animals, with their heads towards the centre of the house, over them is piled their corn, straw, &c. : the space in the middle is for threshing. On the floor at the farther end is the fire, and many have their beds almost resembling playhouse boxes, some with sliding and others with folding doors, ranged along each side.

In all the towns and villages here, one ill-looking custom prevails, that is, every house has a dunghill before the door, in that part of the street where the pavement for foot passengers is in England, so that we can seldom get into any house without walking over heaps of dung. The people in general behave with great kindness to our troops, especially where they are civilly treated by them, which does not always happen.

Halted. Weather fine and mild.

The park of artillery which has been here some time, is moving off, but the roads are so excessive bad, that the heavy pieces as yet remain immovable. Part of the artillery and ammunition is to be left with those troops that remain.

Marched to Wildhausen. This is a regular but a small town, standing on the west side of the river Lette. A rampart of a considerable height made of earth, with a dry ditch, runs round the town, except the east side, which is washed by the river, on which several water-mills are built. The ditch and ramparts are covered with stately trees, which make an agreeable shady walk..

Observed a number of women digging in the garden round this place.

Marched to a small straggling village called Leeste, about six miles from Bremen. The other three battalions marching into Bremen. The country through which we passed this day is in general a barren waste.

March.
25th.

26th.

27th.

March.
28th.

The two flank battalions marched into Bremen, where our brigade was quartered. The head quarters were also here, and the several departments which accompany it:

Bremen being a free town, upon the approach of the army claimed its privilege as neuter with respect to the war, and objected to having any troops quartered on them; but finding it was in vain to contend, they at last consented, and received, first two regiments of Hanoverians, and then the brigade of guards. The other troops all marched through without halting. It is a large, rich, and handsome town, situated on the river Wesser, about sixty miles from the sea. The river here is navigable only for small craft. The town is tolerably well fortified, with high ramparts and a wet ditch; several cannon are mounted round the town, but as war is their aversion, they pay but little attention to the state of the works.

They

They have troops of their own which mount guard at the different ports, and several other places in town, where regular and proper guard rooms are built. This corps consists of about 600 men, divided into six companies, they are cloathed in a red uniform, turned up with white; they have large red cloaks for cold or wet weather. The expence of the whole amounts to about 6500 pounds per annum.

March.
28th.

The country round here is generally low, therefore liable to inundation.

Over the river is a wooden bridge, along the lower side of which is formed a range of corn-mills, thirteen in number, all across the river; they are constructed so as to float, and rise and fall with the water, and each of them can be moved at pleasure, with all its apparatus, with as much facility as a barge.

From an ingenious mechanism placed here also, the town is plentifully supplied with water.

March.
28th.

The several streets, and the houses along the river side, have a fine appearance; the ends of the houses, which always front the streets or other public places, being variously ornamented with painting, carving, plaster, &c.

There is a public cellar under the town-house, in which are some remarkable large butts for holding beer and other liquors, which are viewed as a curiosity.

The officers and soldiers were quartered promiscuously, as the burgher's names came to hand, and many soldiers had far more elegant apartments than his captain.

The behaviour of the people to us was remarkably kind and polite. It is something like a dream or fairy vision, and we could hardly give credit to our own senses; we who had lately been so buffeted about by fortune and the French, driven like vagabonds through frost and snow, over all the wilds of Holland, and who in our greatest extremities, when we asked for any thing to refresh ourselves, with the money

money in our hands, was answered only with a shrug up of the shoulders, nix nix, nix bread, nix butter, nix beer, nix brandwyn for the Englishman. Now to be seated in the most elegant apartments; servants attending ready to anticipate every wish; beds of the softest down to repose upon, without being disturbed in the morning with the thundering of cannon, or the usual alarms of war; it seemed like some sudden enchantment; but it proved real, for they used us like part of their own family, or children which had been long absent, and now returned, and omitted nothing that could contribute either to our ease or pleasure.

The brigade attended divine service at one of the churches.

Every preparation is making for the embarkation of all the British infantry. A small detachment of artillery to be left with the cavalry, who are to remain. Several regiments passed through on their way for Bremen Lake, to embark.

March.

29th.

30th.

March.
31st.

We here see the genuine advantages of trade and commerce, and the inestimable blessings of peace; here poverty hides her pallid face, and plenty, the fruits of industry, smiles on all around.

Several regiments pass through every day, and every preparation is making for our embarkation. We remain here till all the other regiments are past.

The four grenadier companies joined their respective battalions on the 18th inst. There now remains four battalions in our brigade.

April.
9th.

The brigade of guards were ordered to march, and the following routes appointed for them, viz.

The flank battalion and 1st battalion of the 1st regiment of guards, to march on the 10th inst. to Beverstadt, &c. by the following route:

Friday, April 10.

Osterholtz,

Schambeek,

Penningbuttle, and environs.

Saturday,

Saturday, April 11.

Beverstadt,
Stemmen,
Ostendorf, and environs.

April.

9th.

The Coldstream and 3d regiment to march April 11th, to Hagen, &c. by the following route :

Saturday, April 11.

Mayemberg,
Schavanwede.

Sunday, April 12.

Hagan,
Calsbruke,
Bramstadt,
Wilstadt.

To remain till farther orders.

The under-mentioned general officers to take the command of the following regiments and corps :

Major-

April.

9th.

Major-general Morphéad.

Royal artillery,

Royal military artificers,

Light infantry,

First regiment,

Coldstream regiment,

Third regiment of guards,

Corps of royal waggoners.

Hon. Major-general de Burgh.

Twelfth regiment, 27th, 28th, 40th,
54th, 57th, 59th, 79th, 80th, 84th,
and the loyal emigrants.

Major-general Gordon.

Third regiment buff's, 14th, 19th, 33d,
38th, 42d, 53d, 63d, 78th, and
88th.

Major-general Coates.

Eighth regiment foot, 37th, 44th, 55th,
85th, and 89th.

The

The light infantry and 1st regiment marched according to the orders of yesterday, distance about fifteen miles. The country in general is a light sandy soil; and more fruitful than that we have lately passed through.

April.
19th.

From about Osterholtz there is a most beautiful prospect towards Bremen. The principal buildings, churches, spires, &c. of Bremen are plainly seen terminating the view; and between is an extensive lake, in which are a great number of islands, filled with groves of trees, houses, churches, &c. the whole forming a most delightful landscape.

The greatest part of our soldiers left Bremen with much regret. The generous and elegant entertainment we met with there, far surpassed any thing we ever experienced before, and I may venture to say, ever will again. A great number accompanied us out of town, and shewed every possible respect. Several female heroines took leave of their friends and followed us.

Marched

April.
11th.

Marched to Beverstadt, a village about fifteen miles distance; the country rather barren. The village being small, we were much crowded;

12th.

Halted there. To Wilderstadt, a village near the river side, a few miles above Bremen Lake.

13th.

Embarked at five o'clock in the morning, at the mouth of the creek near Bremen Lake, on board the following transports

Light infantry.

Ship.		Numb. of men.
Ann,	-	302
Briton,	-	300

First regiment,

Richard,	-	360
John,	-	160
Alexander,	-	270

Coldstream.

Bellona,	-	320
Loyal Briton,	-	250

Third

Third regiment.

April.

Albion,	-	-	340
Three Brothers,	-	-	230

The troops on board each ship were divided into three watches ; one of which was always upon deck, night and day, on account of the ship's being so much crowded.

Last night an artillery-man fell over-board one of the transports and was drowned.

Weighed anchor and attempted to drop down the river, but the wind failing cast anchor again.

Weighed anchor and fell down to the opening of the river ; anchored again ; wind south-west.

This day all the fleet, except a few, dropt down near the mouth of the river and lay at anchor, waiting for the others coming down. The whole fleet with the convoy was upwards of 200 sail. The river here, including the tracts of sand which the tide covers at high water, is fifteen

April. fifteen miles wide; but the road for ships of burthen is narrow and crooked, marked with buoys on each side; those on the right, white; those on the left, black.

23d. Last night we had a heavy squall of wind, but no damage was done.

24th. The fleet sailed, and about dusk cleared the mouth of the Wesser, wind south-west. In the river we saw the mast of a transport which was lost three months ago by going out of the tract.

25th. Continued under a brisk gale on the larboard tack, close to the wind all day; the gale stronger towards night.

26th. Last night and early this morning it blew what we fresh water sailors thought a perfect hurricane; the sea went mountains high, and exhibited such a scene as few of us had ever witnessed before. The soldiers whose turn it was to be on deck were forced to remain below, the sea breaking frequently over the ship with such violence that we thought we were going to the bottom; so that between sea-

sea-sickness and the storm we were in a very uncomfortable situation: but in the forenoon the wind much abated, but not much our sickness, which was almost universal.

April.

Kept upon the same tack all this day, being driven a great way to the northward by the storm yesterday morning. The fleet which had been scattered very wide by the storm collected itself closer together; we believe none suffered much damage; the Three Brothers, in which part of the 3d regiment was, lost her bowsprit and part of her head.

27th

This day we had the pleasure of beholding British ground once more, which proved to be Cheviot hills, and the high ground to the northward of them. The sea sickness began to abate, and a kind of secret joy brightened every countenance, in hopes of soon reaching our native country, and ending our tedious voyage.

30th.

Kept beating up against the wind, but made very little way. Passed Banbury Castle, distance two leagues.

May.
1st.

Wind

May:
2d.

Wind veered a little more to the east, by which we were enabled to reach off Whitby before sun-set. This day we passed in sight of Shields, Sunderland, &c. The shore on the Yorkshire coast is generally high and rocky.

Whitby, with some other towns along that shore, are curiously built under the shelter of the cliffs and hills, so that hardly a house can be seen, till you are close upon them. We came along near the shore with a gentle breeze, and fine sun-shine. The shore, as far up as Flamborough Head, is high steep rocks; inhabited by numberless flocks of sea gulls, and other sea birds.

3d.

Last night a calm and thick fog coming on, we were forced to cast anchor, and this morning made a little way, but the coast being dangerous, and the fog continuing all day, we anchored again, and remained till next morning.

4th.

Found ourselves off Cromer in Norfolk, distant four miles. The morning clear and a brisk gale, but directly against us.

us. Weighed anchor and made a little way, the tide also coming strongly against us. About eleven o'clock, A. M. cast anchor with the fleet.

Weighed anchor, and with the principal part of the fleet reaching off Yarmouth, anchored in the roads. Weather very fine and calm.

Yarmouth presents a fine prospect from the roads, the houses all built with brick, and covered with tiles, appear of a red colour; but the great church and one chapel are the only buildings which appear any way conspicuous.

Weighed anchor at day-light, and proceeded with a fresh gale within sight of the Nore, but a calm succeeding, and night coming on, the fleet anchored. The divisions of the fleet parted this day, that for Portsmouth standing off to the left, and that for Harwich putting in there.

Weighed anchor at day-light, and with a gentle breeze passed the Nore, and anchored at Gravesend.

S

Weighed

May.
8th. Weighed anchor about ten A. M. and with a brisk gale arrived at Greenwich.

This morning three companies of the 1st regiment disembarked, were seen by his Majesty, and marched to London.

9th. The remainder of the brigade disembarked at seven o'clock this morning, and marched to the parade in St. James's Park, from whence each battalion marched to their several quarters.

The men had eight days leave given them, excused from all kinds of duty, in order to see their friends.

Thus ended our expedition, which, though unsuccessful in the end, all the nation will be ready to allow was not owing either to a want of courage or conduct in the officers or men engaged in it, but to a number of events which could neither be foreseen or prevented; such as the extraordinary exertions of the enemy, such, indeed, as neither they nor any other nation could continue for any considerable time. The freezing of the Waal, which does not happen to such a degree perhaps

perhaps once in a century ; and at the same time the raging sickness which prevailed, reduced our army to less than half its former number.

May.

9th.

Under all these circumstances, it is rather to be wondered at that we effected such a safe retreat, especially through a country, whose inhabitants, as far as they durst avow themselves, were as much, or more our enemies, than the French.

AS various reports have been circulated concerning the donation articles which our generous friends in England, Scotland, and Ireland, subscribed for and sent us, the following is nearly the proportion that each man received who was present with his regiment at all the different times of delivery, during the time we were on the continent.

May.
9th. Blue cloth trowsers one pair, for which we paid 2s. each.

Great coats, one.

Flannel waistcoats, three.

Do. drawers, two pair.

Do. socks, two pair.

Do. nightcaps, one.

Shoes, four pair.

Stockings, two pair.

Handkerchiefs, one.

Gloves, two pair.

The women and children also who were present with us in the month of March, 1794, received each a proportion of things; such as grey cloaks, flannel shifts, petticoats, shoes, children's caps, and other flannel articles.

Several of the above articles, the shoes in particular, were of the best quality and workmanship, and were of infinite service to us, especially in a country where the materials for making them are so very bad.

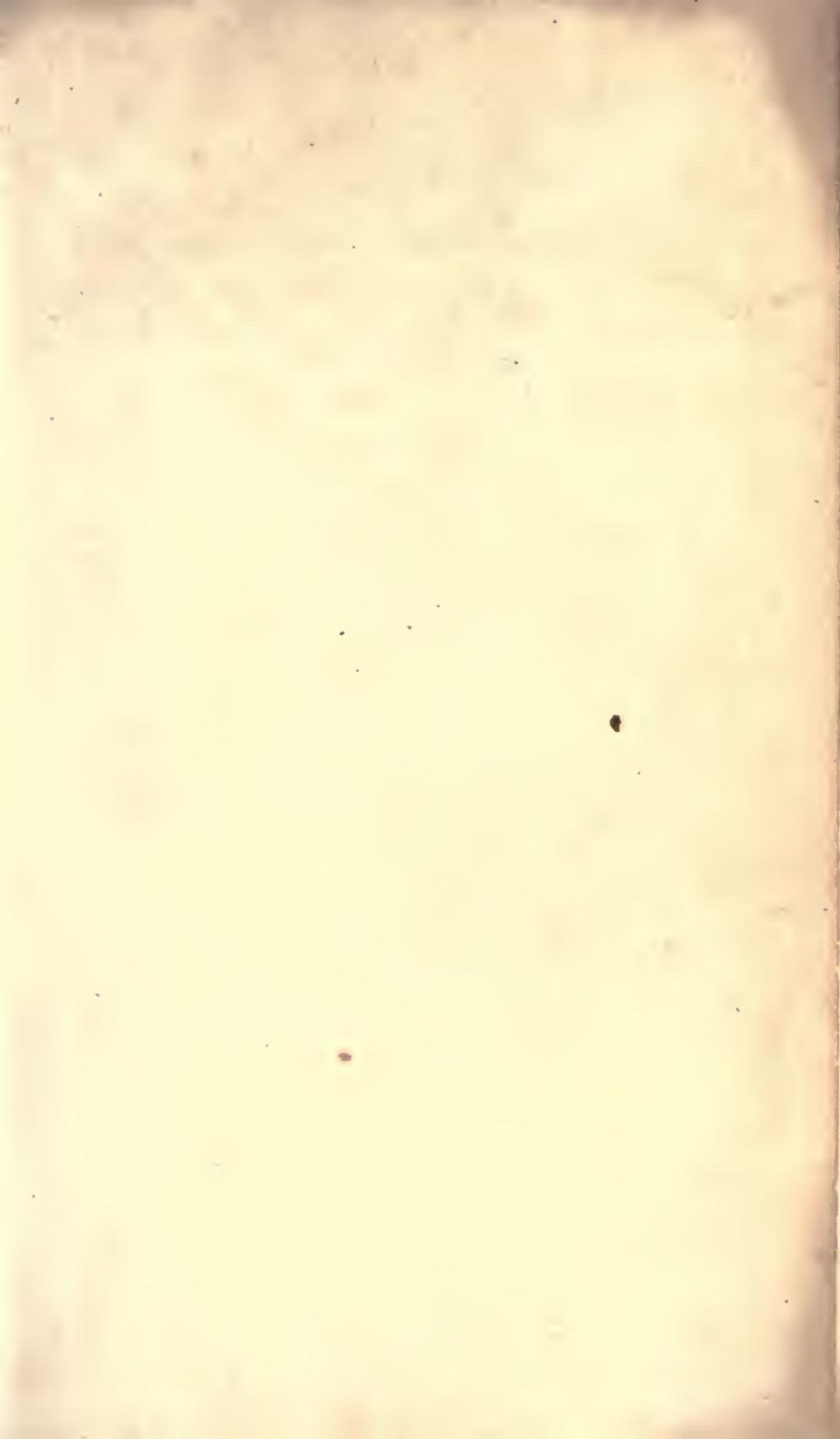
Our soldiers frequently broke out in rough, but sincere expressions of gratitude to those benevolent characters who so generously and timely supplied our wants; especially to the ladies, several of whom we were informed by the papers, disdained not to make up with their own fair hands, a number of the articles which we received.

May.
9th.

THE END.

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